Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS-LAT-93-165 *27 August 1993*

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Cuba

Castro Pastors for Peace Ceremony Speech

FL2608231393 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0001 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Speech by Cuban President Fidel Castro at the Pastors for Peace Welcome Ceremony held at the Fighting Spirit Square in Havana—live, in Spanish with passage-by-passage translation into English]

[Text] [Castro] Reverend Lucius Walker and other members of the group from Laredo, including those who supported that action, members of the Caravan who remained in action in various parts of the United States, many of whom are here today; leaders of the Cuban churches; and fellow citizens:

As we were on our way here tonight trying to be on time as we have gotten used to doing during the Revolution, it was raining heavily in the city. The streets of Vedado were flooded. I asked the comrades and they told me that it had been raining heavily for 20 minutes in this area where the ceremony was to be held. Anyone might have wondered how many people would attend this solidarity ceremony. Some may have thought that no one would attend with the heavy rain.

On the way we could see people trying to get here in spite of it all. But we knew there would be a crowd here for this ceremony. [applause] First of all, we knew that the Pastors for Peace and their comrades would be here. We knew officials from the government and the Revolution would be here. We also knew that those who participated in the vigil in support of the group from Laredo would be here, as well as the thousands of people who visited them, and many comrades from the surrounding areas. That is exactly how it happened. We can see that throughout the activity, thousands of people have joined the ceremony.

Just yesterday, as we approached the airplane in which Lucius Walker and his comrades arrived, we saw a tremendous lightning bolt and heard a terrible thunderclap in the vicinity of the airport. A reverend, who was walking with us towards the plane, said to me that this was a sign of rejoicing from Heaven because of the arrival of Lucius Walker. [applause] Today, it seems that heaven wanted to test the love of our people toward the Pastors for Peace, toward those who carried out the hunger strike in Laredo and those who supported them, especially Lucius Walker and the other leaders and organizers of the Pastors for Peace and the Caravan of Friendship.

When I saw that it had begun to rain again, I wondered if it was another sign from heaven that I should not talk too much tonight. [crowd laughs] If we were to talk about signs from heaven, we would have to mention that we have concluded a severe drought that had affected the entire country during the months of July and August. During the months when it was supposed to rain, it did not rain. During the months when it should not have rained, during our sugar harvest, it rained. We even had the storm of the century. I may suggest to Rev. Suarez that we begin thinking about fasting to prevent the natural calamities that have been affecting us lately.

It is very moving to be able to welcome you here tonight. We have learned many lessons during these days. First of all, what you did. We would have never thought that these events could have taken place. We thought that the Caravan of Friendship would have crossed the border without a problem, as the first one did.

On the first day, when most of the other members of the caravan had arrived, we held a ceremony. The organization was presented the Order of Solidarity and Lucius Walker was awarded the Medal of Friendship [in absentia]. They were already inside the yellow school bus. Many thought it would be only for a short period of time. Some thought it would be for only a few days, then common sense would prevail and that yellow school bus would eventually cross the border just like the other vehicles and goods.

That was on the eve of my trip abroad. I went on my trip, which lasted approximately one week. Everyday we would receive news of the situation in Laredo and were being told that the situation had not changed. We were even bothered by the fact that the situation in Laredo was not being mentioned abroad. There was an evident attempt by someone or some sectors to cover up and silence what was happening in Laredo.

We returned from our trip and the situation still had not changed. That was when Raul Suarez and other Cuban church leaders made the brave decision to also begin a fast here in support of the Laredo group. In other parts of the world, many people in solidarity with Cuba began to mobilize themselves—in Mexico and other countries. As the days passed, we began to become concerned. In reality, when the people began their fast here, almost two weeks had passed since they had begun the hunger strike in Laredo.

Obviously, this began to worry everyone. Amazing news would arrive about the firm behavior of the hunger strikers in the school bus. Some people told us that an 86-year-old man was participating in the hunger strike. His name is (Abraham Goloko). [applause] It is a somewhat difficult name but we will not be able to forget it. Abraham is 86 years old and he was on a hunger strike. He has difficulty hearing, but that was no obstacle. One thing he never would have heard was the end of the strike until they gave back the school bus. No one there would have surrendered. Would you like to say something? He wants to say something.

[(Goloko)] It gives me great pleasure to do what I can for Cuba. [applause] We are going to try to lift this embargo by next year. The media has raised the issue on the embargo to great heights and we have got to keep up the momentum and we will, with many demonstrations. So, Viva Cuba! [crowd shouts: Viva!]

[Castro] We were told that there was a lady called Hilda Roberts, who was 77 years old. Come over here. Would you like to say something?

[Roberts] I admire all the resistance that the Cuban people have and I know that they will keep it up and we will do all we can to support them. Viva Cuba! [crowd shouts: Viva!]

[Castro] We also knew that these people were very firm and that they would resist as long as necessary in the school bus. A moment came when the leaders of the Cuban churches began to worry about a fatal end for some of the strikers. They were very worried. With the intention of sending a message to the strikers, expressing that if they decided to end the strike they could count on our understanding, they even suggested that the school bus could become a mobile office for the Pastors for Peace. They were coming up with many ideas because they were worried about the strikers. They did not think they could resist much longer.

They were seriously worried. They wanted to do something. They did not want that to end in the tragic death of a member of the hunger strike. That is when the negotiations began in Washington and they were hopeful that a solution was at hand. But they were also to say that they were here to support them, and that if the strikers decided to continue to the end, they too would continue to the end. [applause]

Raul Suarez expressed these concerns to me. His concerns seemed justified and reasonable to me. His sincere concerns were based on a feeling of love and firmness that he felt for those who were there. The number of people who joined them here in their fast and prayers was also increasing. At that time, there were 66 people. I am sure that our people would not have let the group in Laredo die because I am sure that hundreds, thousands, and perhaps hundreds of thousands of people, perhaps even more, would have joined that fast or strike as you may want to call it, but they would not have let the strikers in Laredo die alone. [applause]

This 86-year-old U.S. citizen and this 77-year-old lady could not have been abandoned and would never be abandoned because a people of solidarity such as ours—as Walker mentioned—who have been capable of shedding their own blood for the well-being and freedom of other peoples, would not have abandoned the group of Laredo. [applause] I am sure that a countless numbers of people would have been willing to join a similar fast in solidarity with them. That possibility was real. The possibility existed and everything came about from the example that the group in Laredo was giving to the world.

As I said before, no one expected such an incident. The decision to retain the school bus was something so spontaneous, as Lucius [Walker] mentioned. They discussed the situation with the 14 people inside the school bus and they made an important and transcendental decision. It unleashed a great movement of solidarity, which continued to grow until it became impossible to continue ignoring the situation. Many newspapers and news agencies in the world were already talking and writing about the problem that had developed in Laredo.

But if what happened there was admirable, on another scale, what was happening here was also admirable. What was happening on that corner close to the U.S. Interests Section office was also admirable. As Suarez [Rev. Raul Suarez] explained, we visited the place several times to see how the situation was, and how the problem was unfolding, since they were able to maintain constant communication with the group in Laredo—what news did they have and what was the health condition of the fasters here.

There, we saw many admirable things. We saw a 14-year-old girl called Mirelis. [applause] She had run away from home—and I hope she is not punished for that—to join the vigil. Foreigners visiting our country joined them as well. People from all over came to see them. It was one of the most impressive things that believers and nonbelievers joined. If you want to find an example of brotherhood, unity, understanding, and respect, that example was set in an extraordinary manner there in the tents where our compatriots were fasting.

It was truly touching [words indistinct]. That is why when Lucius [Walker] spoke of his vision of the future in the United States, that it would be something different, a different world, I imagined that world like the world that we saw during the vigil. Believers and nonbelievers, all types of people with different characteristics, nationalities, and races. It was truly a stimulating thought. Just as it was very stimulating to listen to Lucius Walker's words.

Their behavior, their attitude—free of haughtiness, arrogance, and vanity, one of unshakable steadfastness, of total conviction and absolute determination—deserves to be reflected upon. They have set for us an example of how a great battle can be won despite the extremely difficult conditions under which the battle is being fought. When one had doubts as to what the final outcome of all that might be, doubts as to whether the U.S. authorities had enough cold blood, enough equanimity, a deep enough understanding of the type of problem that had been created—because one often does see arrogance prevail—[one wondered]: what will happen to the Laredo strikers if certain people become determined to have arrogance prevail? However, as has been said here, reason prevailed. Justice prevailed. The truth prevailed.

I think these people's resoluteness, their dignity—and along with this, in a very special way, their profound conviction and righteousness of what they were doing, the purity of their conduct—were determining factors, along with the solidarity and great international support that had been created and was increasing daily. In our opinion, this is what made it possible for a successful solution to be found.

As the leaders of the Cuban church were saying: There were neither vanquishers nor vanquished. It was not a matter of humiliating anybody, because if one is fighting arrogance, humiliating someone would only be a manifestation of arrogance. That is why we also admire the serene way in which Lucius and the leadership of the group acted, the way they reacted when they succeeded: They did not act smug, or in a spirit of vainglory. Rather, with great humility, they immediately understood that this was an important step—very important, but just one more step—in the battle that they were waging against the blockade, and they began drafting new ideas and new plans for another friendship caravan. In that, too, they truly set an example; and I think that if one wants to succeed, to really reach goals, that is the path to take.

That is why we also appreciate—everyone has been able to see—how he spoke, with great conviction, great resoluteness, and at the same time with great humility.

The things that were invented to justify holding the bus today seem incredible. They seemed incredible even then. A claim was made that would not have crossed anyone's mind: that that yellow bus, earmarked for a church, a bus with children's seats, a school bus, could be used for military ends. Never in my life have I heard anything more ridiculous. [chuckles, crowd laughs] Because, well, only if one were to take out of El Morro and La Cabana the cannons and harquebuses from the days of Spain, to arm the yellow bus and assign it to military ends.

But, notice how, when a reason does not exist, any old kind of lie, any old absurd argument is employed, to justify wrongdoing. I think that the bus will indeed someday cease to be a school bus, or a church bus, or a bus for use by the elderly, that it will go to a museum, [applause] into a museum, [applause] like a modern Rocinante [Don Quixote's horse] with its thin, worn horseshoes to become a symbol of friendship, solidarity, brotherhood [applause] among peoples.

As you have seen, not a single word of hatred against anything or anyone issued from Lucius' lips. Only reason, argument, truths came from his lips. Hard truths perhaps, but only truths—because the Pastors for Peace are fighting, precisely, for just that: for peace, because that is precisely what the Friendship Caravan is struggling for; friendship—friendship between the people of the United States and the people of Cuba, friendship between the people of the United States and all other peoples of the world.

They have been so noble as to say they were coming here to ask our forgiveness for what our neighbor to the north is doing. We however say that the people of the United States will never have to ask the people of Cuba for forgiveness for anything at all [applause] because we have never confused the American people with the people responsible for the acts of hostility, aggression, and cruelty that have been committed, and are still being committed, against our people. I have more than once said that nowhere in the world is a U.S. citizen received in a greater spirit of friendship than in Cuba. Never is an offensive word heard [applause]. Never is a word of hatred heard.

Should this not suffice to give an idea of how our population feels, it at least serves as the measure of our people's political and revolutionary education, a people taught not to hate or be fanatical but rather to understand, based on the analysis of a problem and based on the preaching of all Cuba's revolutionaries, who have always, on many occasions, stressed the fact that it is not the American people who are responsible; that responsibility lies rather with their rulers. We have said that a thousand and one times.

That is why I share Lucius' feelings of optimism. It is true that the American people have been deceived. It is true. It is also true that one thousand times the amount of rain that has fallen here today has fallen, in terms of lies and propaganda, on the heads of the American people, enough in fact to inundate the world. One could speak of a new universal deluge, but this time a universal deluge of lies. That has been our experience over these past 34 years regarding what has been said and written against our Revolution. [applause] We have remained a sort of Noah's Ark amid all those lies, and have been able to float over those lies. However, I am not exaggerating when I say that a propaganda campaign has been carried out systematically against our Revolution and our country. That is why we can say what Lincoln used to say: that you may fool all the people some of the time; you can even fool some of the people all of the time; but you cannot fool all of the people all of the time. [applause] And you, the Pastors for Peace, the members of the Friendship Caravan, are proving this prophecy of Lincoln's to be true.

I would say that many Americans have been deceived for a long time, but that the time for lies is running out. And we are seeing this not only in regard to the American people; and that is why we believe what Lucius says: that a growing number of Americans are understanding the truth and beginning to express their feelings of support and liking for the Pastors for Peace.

We have also been able to see this recently in Bolivia, a country thousands of miles away, which has been subjected to the same deluge of calumnies and lies against Cuba. And yet it was impressive to see the extraordinary warmth, the extraordinary sentiment of solidarity toward our people that the population expressed massively. I had a chance to tell them: It is impressive to see how, despite all the calumnies, despite all the lies, you have been able to (?discern) the truth, amid all of that.

The fact is that there is today increasingly greater communication among peoples. It is today increasingly difficult to prevent the truth from getting out. We have seen this in other parts of the world. That is why I think it quite fitting to dream of a future world different from

today's—a world without exploitation, without oppression, without domination; a world in which there aren't thousands of people without... [rephrases] billions of people without medical care, jobs, housing, and food; a world where men are allowed to work toward their progress, development, and well-being, men who will be capable of sustaining, and at the same time preserving, nature.

Thinking about that world is inevitable because it is a matter of survival. Otherwise the day of final judgment will get even closer than it already is. It is true that today nature is being destroyed. And still today billions are spent on weapons. Not only billions, but trillions are being spent on weapons. What does the world need all those weapons for if the Cold War is over and there is no longer a pretext that will justify that arms build-up, unless they are being used everyday to intervene in all parts of the world and strip every nation of its sovereignty.

The entire world is suffering a very serious economic crisis. The developed capitalist countries are going through a very serious crisis. They are looking for ways and means of overcoming that crisis. Every time, it becomes more difficult for them to do so. However, just look at how many wars are going on in the world and how many trillions are still being dedicated to military activities, when millions are needed for the development of a great part of mankind, to preserve the environment, or to save mankind. [passage indistinct] Men and women like you truly make it possible for the United States to someday be other than the center of that hegemonic policy [words indistinct].

As I said before, you will have done more for the greatness, prestige, and honor of your fatherland than anyone else. The other day I was recalling while the yellow school bus was retained in customs, that millions of tons of explosives, weapons, ammunition, and war provisions have crossed the U.S. border to sustain unfair causes on numerous occasions. The causes sustained in Central America were unjust. They cost the lives of hundreds of thousands of people.

The Pastors for Peace have experience in this because it was there that they were subjected to the first aggressions, which cost blood, while they carried out humanitarian missions in Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Guatemala. Tens of thousands, even hundreds of thousands have died or are missing. The weapons and war resources with which those actions were carried out crossed the U.S. border. Weapons used to commit crimes in countries like Chile and Argentina crossed the same border. The crimes committed in Vietnam and other places in the world such as South Africa... [changes thought] All kinds of war materials have crossed the border, and there is no report of it ever having been stopped.

That is why we were amazed that the yellow bus, the school bus, which was donated to a church to transport children and senior citizens, was held in Laredo. Undoubtedly, all this was absurd. This was done through the sheer power and force of the United States. If men and women like you would make policies prevail of the character Lucius talked about, then we would be able to talk about a new and fair world order. Only then, we would be able to speak about a world of peace and respect for the rights of others [words indistinct], the independence of others.

What is the point in trying to make the Cuban people surrender through starvation and sickness? What is the point in sabotaging its efforts for development and our policy of social justice, of helping children, the elderly, the sick, and all its people? What is the point in sabotaging our efforts [applause] and flagrantly violating the human rights of millions of people in order to impose an unjust foreign policy that violates the sovereignty and independence of a country?

Undoubtedly, this is a great crime. To the degree that it is a great crime and injustice, we feel appreciation for you, U.S. citizens and all other U.S. citizens who have become aware of this problem, who help us in the battle against the blockade, and who work for the development of normal relations, in the economic and diplomatic sense, and of friendship between the people of Cuba and the United States.

Our country has the capacity to understand you and to appreciate the value and greatness of your efforts. For that reason, they said something that touched many of you, including Lucius: Pastors are brothers. I hope that in the near future you can also say to the majority of the U.S. people: You are also brothers of the Cuban people because we live in peace and because we respect each other. [applause]

There is no hatred in our hearts towards the U.S. people, just as we do not fear the powerful who have sought to destroy us. We will know how to be friends with the same dignity with which we have defended our cause, justice, and Revolution. [applause] We will know how to be firm as were the strikers in Laredo. We will then have the right to obtain victory in the end.

Victory will not be just one, but a combination of many victories, your struggles and our resistance. I am sure that what has happened in Laredo will always be remembered by our people. I am sure that an unforgettable page in history has been written there. I am sure that the gratitude of the present and future generations will be eternal. To conclude, I must say what I have always said: Socialism or death; fatherland or death; We will win! [applause]

Bahamas

Prime Minister Announces Cabinet Reshuffle

FL2708004793 Bridgetown CANA in English 2158 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] Nassau, Bahamas, Aug 26, CANA--Bahamas Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham has reshuffled his

cabinet, reallocating the portfolios of eight ministers and elevating a state minister to full cabinet rank. In a radio and television address to the nation announcing the changes which take effect September 1, the prime minister also named his most senior minister, Orville Turnquest, as deputy prime minister, a post that remained vacant during the first year of the new government, the Bahamas Information Services reported.

In addition, the prime minister transferred some of his portfolios to other ministers and created a fourth parliamentary secretary to deal specifically with environmental concerns in the "Over the Hill" area of New Providence.

Turnquest, who formerly held the posts of attorney general, minister of justice and foreign affairs, will become deputy prime minister, attorney general, and minister of foreign affairs.

The Justice portfolio has been transferred to former minister of social services, housing and national insurance, Janet Bostwick, who will become the minister of justice and immigration.

Arlington Butler, minister of public safety and immigration, will assume responsibility for the Ministry of Public Safety and Transport.

Minister of Tourism Theodore Brent Symonette had his portfolio expanded to include Nassau flight services, aviation, the air transport licensing authority, and meteorology.

Theresa Moxey, minister of transport, will become minister of social development and national insurance.

Algernon Allen, minister of youth and personal development and leader of the government business in the House of Assembly, will become the minister of youth and culture, with culture, rehabilitation and probation added to his portfolio.

Senator William Allen, minister of state in the Ministry of Finance and Planning, is now a full member of the cabinet with responsibilities for the public service, radio and television broadcasting, and Bahamasair, in addition to his continuing responsibility for the day-to-day business of the Ministry of Finance and Planning.

Minister of agriculture and fisheries, Tennyson Wells, will assume responsibilities for the Bahamas Agricultural and Industrial Corporation, which was transferred from the prime minister's office.

Frank Watson, minister of public works and utilities, had responsibility for physical planning, land use, and local government transferred to his portfolio from the office of the prime minister, and will become minister of public works and local government.

Anthony Rolle, parliamentary secretary in the office of the prime minister, will assume responsibilities as parliamentary secretary in the Ministry of Public Works and Local Government.

Tommy Turnquest, parliamentary secretary in the office of the prime minister, will be assigned responsibilities for investment and public personnel.

Barry Malcolm, as parliamentary secretary in the office of the prime minister, will have responsibility for trade and industry and divestment.

Fort Fincastle MP, Calvin Johnson, will be appointed parliamentary secretary in the Ministry of Health and Environment, with specific responsibility for environmental concerns in the Over-the-Hill area of New Providence.

Barbados

Prime Minister Sandiford Reshuffles Cabinet

FL2708002793 Bridgetown CANA in English 2107 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Aug 26, CANA—Barbados' prime minister, Erskine Sandiford, on Thursday announced a sweeping re-shuffling of his cabinet.

Sandiford switched the finance portfolio from himself to lawyer David Thompson. He also announced new foreign affairs, health, labour, and education ministers.

The changes are effective from September 1.

Cabinet Line-up Announced

FL2708003493 Bridgetown CANA in English 2140 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Aug 26, CANA—Barbados' cabinet line-up after the re-shuffle announced by Prime Minister Erskine Sandiford takes effect next Wednesday:

Erskine Sandiford—Prime minister, minister of economic affairs, with responsibility for the civil service.

Philip Greaves—Deputy prime minister, minister of home affairs, and leader of the House of Assembly.

Maurice King—Attorney general, minister of justice, and minister for Caricom affairs.

Branford Taitt—Minister of foreign affairs, deputy leader of the House of Assembly.

Evelyn Greaves—Minister of tourism, culture, and international transport.

Warwick Franklin—Minister of trade, industry, and commerce.

Keith Simmons—Minister of education

Wesley Hall—Minister of labour, industrial relations, public works, community development, and sports.

Sen. Harcourt Lewis—Minister of the environment, housing and lands, and leader of the Senate.

Cyril Walker—Minister of health.

Sen. Carl Clarke—Minister of state in the Ministry of Economic Affairs, and deputy leader of the Senate.

David Thompson—Minister of finance.

David Bowen—Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Fisheries.

Sen. Anderson Morrison—Parliamentary secretary to the prime minister.

Sen. Maizie Barker-Welch—Parliamentary secretary to the minister of labour.

Haiti

Chamber of Deputies Ratifies Malval General Policy

FL2608123493 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Excerpts] The statement of general policy by Prime Minister-Designate Robert Malval was ratified on 25 August by the parliament [corrects himself] by the Chamber of Deputies. On 25 August, it was the deputies' turn to approve Robert Malval's general policy which is centered, of course, on the political, economic, and social planes. Evidently, Malval spoke on the same lines as he did before the Senate. [passage omitted]

His government's objectives are to appease, reconcile, and democratize. This is what he said again yesterday. He asserted that there would not be a witch hunt. He stated that President Jean- Bertrand Aristide's return must be the symbol of a nation united again. He aspires for Haiti to become the Korea or the Taiwan of the Caribbean. The atmosphere was not too awkward or too tense yesterday at the Chamber of Deputies. As you can see, Malval was somewhat relaxed. There was little stammering. [passage omitted]

Suspension of Sanctions Announced, Effective 27 Aug

FL2608152793 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1045 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] The Haitian prime minister-designate's cabinet has informed the nation that the mechanisms for the suspension of the sanctions have been initiated and those sanctions will be suspended on Friday, 27 August. This comes from a press release by the prime minister-designate's cabinet signed by his spokesman Emile Jean-Baptiste.

It should be noted that Robert Malval personally announced that oil products could arrive in the country four or five days after he takes office. The next step of this new government is the installation. However, nothing has been said officially yet regarding the date for assuming the office by the new government. From a source close to the prime minister-designate, we learn that Robert Malval could soon go to Washington to receive the official installation from President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

Aristide To Install Malval in Washington

FL2608153293 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Prime Minister-Designate Malval is against any form of foreign intervention in the country. The next step is the installation which will take place in Washington. President Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide is due to install Robert Malval so he can assume office and then install his various ministers. Malval will have to travel. He has an appointment for today at 1300. [sentence as heard] Then, he will have to travel to Washington for his installation. Former Prime Minister Rene Preval will then transfer the files to Prime Minister-Designate Robert Malval.

Fuel Depletion Immobilizes Port-au-Prince

FL2608203293 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1045 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] The scarcity of fuel might last several more days. The arrival of an oil tanker can be expected within about a week after the installation of the new government. The prime minister made this announcement during the presentation of his statement of general policy to the Chamber of Deputies.

Robert Malval explained that dealings have begun to allow the arrival of this oil ship into Haiti after he takes office. The stock of commercial oil products has been exhausted for about a week. Gasoline is being sold at the high price of $15 to $20 a gallon on the black market. Traffic is basically light on the streets of Port-au-Prince. Austerity is therefore in force. Most car owners use their cars when they need them and cars simply run out of fuel in the middle of the streets of Port-au-Prince.

On the other hand, many cars are parked due to lack of fuel. The depletion of oil supplies is also one of the direct consequences of electricity shortages. Blackouts are very severe today. The company excuses itself to its customers for the sparing distribution of electricity. It is to be noted that some activities are today paralyzed because of the total lack of fuel on the market, a situation that immobilizes the entire population.

The possible arrival of an oil tanker to the Thor Terminal is one bit of news that would thrill every Haitian.

Cedras 'Amazed' at Deputy's Remarks

FL2608154893 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] In a letter to the president of the Chamber of Deputies [Antoine Joseph], the commander in chief of the Haitian Army, General Raoul Cedras says he is amazed at hearing Deputy Georges Pierre Simon making public statements attributed to Prime Minister-Designate Robert Malval on the sending of a multinational force to Haiti, which Malval asserted to be a normal consequence of the Governors Island Agreement or to an understanding between the president and the commander in chief. Gen. Cedras thinks that such deductions are the result of a bad interpretation of the agreement stipulating that each of the two parties agreed to take, within the scope of the [words indistinct].... [pauses] to take all the measures that are necessary for establishing these provisions. Gen. Cedras recalls Article 5 of the agreement, which stipulates that international cooperation will occur after agreements are reached with the constitutional government.

Finally, in his letter, the commander in chief of the Army, Gen. Raoul Cedras, points out that the delegation he headed has always drawn its inspiration from the provisions of the Constitution and also from the mandate to unravel the situation, which the lower chamber so happily granted him by its 18 June letter.

PNDPH Letter to Army Denounces Rampant 'Repression'

FL2608214693 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1900 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] PNDPH, the National Democratic Progressive Party of Haiti denounces the atmosphere of repression, insecurity, and terror that is rampant in the country.

In an open letter to the Haitian Armed Forces commander in chief, Senator Turneb Delpe calls the attention of the military institution to cases of activists who are the victims of actual manhunts in several regions of the country.

PNDPH specifically names its own activist, Andral Fortune, who was killed in cold blood in his home in Las Cahobas by a corporal of the Armed Forces on 16 August in the presence of a sergeant and a second-lieutenant.

El Salvador

Former FMLN Fighters March To Demand Land

PA2708040693 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 27 Aug 93

[Report by William Melendez from "Up to Date" newscast]

[Text] About 5,000 former Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] fighters marched to the Presidential Palace on 26 August to demand that the government expedite the distribution of land to former guerrillas.

The march, which began at the Civic Plaza in downtown San Salvador and ended across from the government house, was mainly intended to demand that the government complete the first stage of the land transfer, which should have ended eight months ago.

[Begin recording] [First unidentified speaker] We have a 10-point proposal to speed up the land transfer and resolve the credit problem for former fighters.

[Second unidentified speaker] I wish I could get a job [words indistinct]. [end recording]

According to the former guerrillas, the government has a list of approximately 74,000 manzanas of land that could be transferred to the beneficiaries and current land occupants. So far, however, titles for only 5,000 of the 74,000 manzanas have been handed out. For that reason an FMLN delegation met with Presidency Minister Oscar Santamaria; Rodolfo Parker [not further identified]; and General Mauricio Ernesto Vargas, former Armed Forces deputy chief of staff [title as heard]. The FMLN leadership agreed with the government on some points that will help the land transfer and for timely loans that will allow peasants to begin planting.

[Begin third unidentified speaker recording] There has been total agreement on both sides. The government has recognized that the land transfer process is seriously behind schedule. Measures need to be taken to expedite the transfer. That includes improving administrative procedures, specifically the land bank. [end recording]

Apparently the problem has been resolved. The former fighters left satisfied at having reached specific agreements with the government on the land transfer problems. The government's official position is still unknown.

Guatemala

De Leon on Congressional Purge, Supreme Court

PA2608130793 Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO in Spanish 22 Aug 93 p 13

[Interview with President Ramiro de Leon Carpio by Haroldo Sanchez in Mazatenango; date not given]

[Text] [Sanchez] President Ramiro de Leon Carpio, why have you decided to purge the Congress and the Supreme Court of Justice?

[De Leon] Primarily in response to the people's demands. No president can disregard requests from the population. In this case, early in my term, I worked to prepare the new administration for change and to fulfill a priority mission: the consolidation of democracy and institutions. This took approximately two and one-half months, where I had first thought it would take three months, perhaps more. I later dedicated my time to government programs because, given the circumstances under which I assumed the presidency, nothing had been prepared. Immediately afterward, as part of a strategy and having understood the people's demands, I decided to respond to this clear political mandate. Hence my decision to demand a purge of state organizations.

[Sanchez] How will you handle the purge?

[De Leon] From two different angles: one based on the principle of legitimacy and the other on legality. In other words, I am certain I have the necessary support to say I speak for the people, that I am their chosen advocate. Then I will appeal to the conscience of those on the Supreme Court of Justice and those in Congress, urging them to quickly establish mechanisms for a purge, but they should not stop there. They should follow with political reorganization, changing specific organizations and political elements that now prevent the country's economic and social development.

Then, I repeat, I will proceed in two different ways: using legal means and principles of legitimacy. The legal means will be an initiative I shall present, proposing changes to the Political Constitution, for example, to abolish preliminary hearings for everyone, including the president of the republic; abolish discretionary funds available to the two other branches; publicly disclose the nation's budget; change the Congress to allow better participation, conducting a purge through legal mechanisms within a constitutional and democratic framework.

The proposal I will present, the issue of preliminary hearings, for example, will be historic. If we achieve that, we might be able to eliminate the political impunity that has damaged Guatemala so much. Moreover, not even the principle of legitimacy, general principles of law, constitutional doctrine, or democratic actions can prevent or limit the exercise of the greatest right any nation has, that to its sovereignty. In this case the people ask that their sovereignty and dignity be defended.

Based on the principle of legitimacy, I will submit a request to those two organizations. I will also ask those who comprise them, the workers' union, judges, and magistrates in the Judicial Branch, to support the purge and reorganization.

In Congress' case, it is the Guatemalan people who have actually requested it. I will use these two options, the principle of legitimacy and legal means available, to conduct a purge.

[Sanchez] What are your next steps?

[De Leon] The next step is to convey this message to the Guatemalan people, announcing a series of measures that I am going to propose. Subsequently, I will implement the proposed legislation, announcing the changes. Personally, as a Constitutional zealot, as former president of the National Constituent Assembly, I am working on a document to make specific changes to the Constitution and to basic legislative standards. I am being advised in this endeavor by a commission of distinguished Constitutional legal experts.

[Sanchez] Mr. President, what do you expect from the people?

[De Leon] I hope that the people will continue to support the government and its leader. I expect the people's participation, not only in the changes we will implement, but also in achieving administrative, financial, and fiscal decentralization the government wants to effect with the people's help. We hope that the people will continue supporting the president as they have been. This is how I will be able to make the decisions, no matter how difficult, because I have the people's support.

[Sanchez] Have you asked different sectors of the community for suggestions or recommendations on how to conduct the purge?

[De Leon] Yes. Nevertheless, given my current working tour of the countryside, it has been difficult for me to contact representatives of the nation's diverse sectors. I have indirectly received support and some suggestions. If necessary, I will suspend my tour for a couple of days in order to make direct contact with diverse sectors in Guatemalan society. In this way I will receive not only suggestions but also coordinate efforts to win this battle, because this is a battle.

[Sanchez] How do you feel in this battle? What are your strengths and weaknesses in confronting this purge?

[De Leon] In my opinion, my strength lies in the people's support. There is no doubt that the people's support is the strength every government desires. And the weakness is the passage of time. Time could cool the need for political action, which the Guatemalan people feel now. There is also the fact that there are powerful forces, they might not be many in number, that will try to prevent this purge no matter what. They will use all means possible, but I am willing to face them.

[Sanchez] The deputies accuse you of sedition. What is your reaction?

[De Leon] It is not I asking for the purge; rather, it is the Guatemalan people who have demanded it. I thought this was a sentiment felt only in the capital, but now that I have traveled throughout the countryside, I have discovered that this is the people's feeling in every town I have visited. Everywhere I go people are asking for a purge of the Judicial Branch and the Congress. This is why I want to state the following: Corrupt individuals must leave the government because this is the people's plea.

[Sanchez] There are sectors that may oppose your wishes...

[De Leon, interrupting] What sectors? Maybe a small group of people, but I do not believe whole sectors would. The press, the business sector, popular organizations, churches, universities, all economic, cultural and social, and political sectors have not criticized the measure. To the contrary, they are backing it and have offered me support. A group of people may well oppose these measures because they are the ones who benefit from these perks. They do not want political structures changed because they want to continue working with impunity and receiving these perks.

It is a difficult struggle, it is a very tough struggle, and I am aware that I cannot wage it alone. I need the support of all the Guatemalan society. But this is what is great, what is marvelous, that a president should receive this support. When it is precisly a president who is asked to change the country's situation politically, then that political leader has no option but to act in accordance with the decision of those people.

[Sanchez] What is the philosophy behind this movement?

[De Leon] It is simply to reply positively to the people. Believe me, I truly feel very satisfied to do this. We are trying something historic, to change this country, which cannot continue as it has with current political structures. That is why next week I will address the nation on what these measures will be. All this will naturally be within a legal framework but with the support of the people's moral force.

I insist that two principles, on which the people of Guatemala base this initiative, are operating here. One is the principle of legality, which is clearly established; I will of course use this principle through legal channels and within a democratic and constitutional framework.

But there is also the principle of legitimacy. People have a right to that which is most sacred, their sovereignty and dignity. This dignity has been trampled for many years and the people want it restored. As president of the Republic of Guatemala and according to the Constitution, I represent national unity. One of my tasks and obligations, according to the Constitution, is to defend the nation with dignity, with the dignity of the Guatemalan people. Those are the arguments, this is the philosophy, and you can be sure and I hereby announce that I will not back down because this is historic and this is my obligation.

Call for Resignations, Reform

PA2608235993 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 1900 GMT 26 Aug 93

[From the "Telepress" newscast]

[Text] President Ramiro De Leon Carpio has called the Constitutionality Court ruling a historic decision. On 25 August the court responded to a query from the National Congress about the possibility of removing deputies and holding the elections scheduled for 1995 sooner. The president said the Court's decision is consistent with the process to restore institutional rule, which began with a previous ruling issued by the same body on 1 June.

[Begin recording] [De Leon] I think history is repeating itself. The events that occurred during the civil and democratic movements of 25 May were resolved without bloodshed, thanks to a resolution issued by the highest constitutional law authority: the Constitutionality Court. At that time, as you may recall, the Guatemalan Army obeyed a Court ruling and carried out its orders. The Guatemalan people also used the ruling to recover what had been taken away, to return to institutional order, and to resume the democratic process in Guatemala, which although still fragile is now growing stronger.

Today, the Constitutionality Court ruling is equally historic because it contains some essential statements. One such element is that it is legally acceptable for the deputies to resign. That, in turn, makes it possible to demand their resignation by a referendum.

I would like to state clearly that these corruption charges and the calls for a purge must seem painful to those who have had no part in the corruption at the National Congress. There are a lot of deputies. There are 63 deputies who have already been honorable enough to resign and are probably innocent of these charges. There are 53 others, however, who may not be, and this call for resignation is directed specifically at them. Their resignations will allow us, based on a legal decision, to resolve the problem that is causing such a political crisis. There are several parties whose deputies have all resigned, such as the National Vanguard Party [PAN], the Guatemalan Republican Front [FRG], the Solidarity Action Movement [MAS], and others, including the so-called prochange wing, which belongs to other political tendencies. I am saying this because I think the good should not pay for the actions of the bad, as they say.

In conclusion, this is a historic ruling by the Constitutionality Court because it legalizes resignations and allows us to purge the National Congress properly. It states the mechanism and [word indistinct]. I believe the people's cries are reflected in the Court's decision and it is showing us the right direction. At the same time, it bans other ways of cleansing the political system, such as constitutional reforms. It clearly says that the number of deputies cannot be reduced and their term cannot be interrupted, and we must abide by the law.

[Unidentified reporter] Do you agree with the alternate deputies taking their places?

[De Leon] That is described in the law and depends on whether the resignation is final and if it is a deputy or an alternate member of Congress. If it is an alternate, then we would have to find a way to compensate for that legal loophole. The president cannot decide the issue, so it does not matter if I agree or not. It is something the Congress must decide for itself based on an appeal to its collective conscience from the Guatemalan people and in compliance with the constitutional ruling.

[Reporter] [words indistinct]

[De Leon] I am going to present the proposal today, although it underwent a major change based on the Constitutionality Court's ruling, as handed down on 25 August. I would prefer not to give any details at this time, as they will all be revealed in due time. I have already said that the proposal will call for the deputies' resignations, based on the court ruling. If they do not tender their resignations, we will resort to other legal mechanisms, such as a referendum, to force morally the deputies to accept and recognize the legal option the Constitutionality Court is offering. In addition to this, I will be presenting a constitutional reform package for structural changes in the political area. There will be a change, however, as I will announce the reforms first, then submit them once the Congress has been purged.

[Reporter] How long will it take to call the referendum if the deputies do not agree to resign?

[De Leon] Immediately. It will be done immediately afterward. This should happen simultaneously so we do not waste time.

[Reporter] What questions would be included?

[De Leon] The question would be quite simple: yes or no to a purge of the National Congress; yes or no to a purge or resignation of the Supreme Court justices. Based on the people's cries, you can be sure that the answer will be affirmative in both cases.

[Reporter] [words indistinct]

[De Leon] No, not yet.

Willing To Resign in Exchange for Purge

PA2608213193 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1902 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 26 Aug (NOTIMEX)—Guatemalan President Ramiro De Leon Carpio said today at a local radio station that he would be willing to resign as president in exchange for a true purging of the National Congress and the Supreme Court in his country.

De Leon Carpio stated that his country must reduce the number of deputies from 116 to 70. He added that the judicial branch also needs cleaning.

He said that Congress President Jose Fernando Lobo Dubon and Juan Jose Rodil, president of the Supreme Court, must resign to allow a true cleansing.

The president told Radio America that "I am willing to resign and hold early elections if there is to be a purging of the national Congress, the Supreme Court of Justice, and other political institutions."

He affirmed that "the president is in charge in Guatemala and not the Armed Forces," as certain sectors have said. He denied that he was being "manipulated" by the military, which has also been suggested.

De Leon Carpio said that there is an "institutional harmony" in Guatemala, and the policy to be followed must be backed by all the country's institutions, including the Armed Forces.

Freezes Congress Purchases, Payments

PA2708012893 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 26 Aug 93 p 4

[Text] President Ramiro De Leon Carpio on 26 August ordered the Finance Ministry to freeze all Congress purchase and payment orders.

The president reportedly made the decision in response to investigations currently being conducted by the Attorney General's Office and the nation's General Accounts Comptrollership.

Political leader Rodolfo Rosales Garcia-Salas filed charges at the Attorney General's Office requesting the deputies' resignation given the widespread corruption in Congress.

URNG Joins Demand for Purge

PA2608200693 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1748 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] Guatemala City, 26 Aug (NOTIMEX)—It was reported here today that the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG) joined the people's demand to purge the Legislative and Judicial Branches and demand that the 116 Guatemalan parliamentarians tender their resignations.

The URNG detonated a bomb in front of Congress yesterday and scattered fliers in which they demand the resignation of the Guatemalan parliamentarians.

"We demand the purge of the Congress and the Supreme Court of Justice [CSJ]. For Guatemala until the end," appeared on the fliers, which were scattered in front of the main people's organization, authorities revealed.

Congress Vice President Ernesto Contreras stated that the attitude of the rebels and other sectors in the country [word indistinct] concerns us, and we are happy to hear that they are concerned with the future of this forum."

Yesterday Congress reported that they had presented several bills to the CSJ, which include mechanisms to reorganize and purge the legislators.

"We are willing to contribute, within the country's constitutional and legal framework, to obtain the people's wishes," the legislative document added.

President Ramiro De Leon Carpio initiated a national consultation last week to present a bill to "purge" the Congress and the CSJ based on two points: legality and legitimacy.

In the legal aspect, deputies are willing to contribute to the proposal but question the legitimacy mentioned by the president.

According to the 116 legislators, legitimacy is granted by the people through the mechanisms established by the Constitution and law.

In this context, De Leon Carpio's legitimacy as president of the Republic stems from the appointment made by the Congress of the Republic on 6 June 1993, when the president asked for the legislators' support to assume power.

Parliament also consulted the Constitutionality Court and requested that it issue a resolution to determine if it is legal for the president of a government branch to demand that the legislators resign.

De Leon Carpio stated last week that the purge of the Congress and the CSJ must occur "before other sectors demand it through other means."

According to the deputies, the presidential warning could constitute a precedent that could endanger the country's institutional stability.

Congress Vice President Contreras said that the legislators will not "resign" from their posts, as they were elected by the people in free and democratic elections.

Rigoberta Menchu, the 1992 Nobel peace laureate, has insisted that the country needs healthy institutions that will contribute to the country's development and improve Guatemalans' standard of living.

"Society is tired of corruption and needs to have a Congress that defends the national interests and not the ones of political groups," stated the Indian woman, who arrived in the country 23 August.

The Guatemalan Lawyers and Public Notaries Association demanded that the 116 legislators and their corresponding deputies resign immediately after their replacements have been appointed.

The association also asked that the CSJ magistrates abandon their posts in response to the national request.

It pointed out that if the requested resignations are not tendered immediately, the Congress of the Republic,

based on the Constitution, should submit the purge of the Congress and the CSJ to a people's consultation.

"The people, exercising their sovereign power, will decide what is correct," the Lawyers and Notaries Association added.

Government Minister Arnoldo Ortiz Moscoso estimated that a people's consultation to determine whether the people want the legislative and judicial branches to be purged requires at least 90 days and would be very expensive.

The official said that a self-purge would be the easiest road to clean the institutions, but, he said, there is no political will to do so.

On 25 May 1992, former President Jorge Serrano Elias dissolved the legislative and judicial branches on the grounds that they were rife with drug traffickers who wanted to get a quota of power in the government sphere.

A week later, after Serrano Elias fell from power and left for exile, the government branches were reinstated.

President's Address to Nation

PA2708052593 Guatemala City Radio and Television Networks in Spanish 0300 GMT 27 Aug 93

[Address to the nation by President Ramiro De Leon Carpio—live]

[Text] My fellow Guatemalans: The Guatemalan nation is a nation of tolerant and patient people who have suffered and who demonstrated that they are brave and determined by reaffirming their genuine sovereign conviction and flatly rejecting the 25 May coup d'etat. Those events sparked a popular cry among the great majority of Guatemalans, who had been silenced by the abuse of power for so long. Their voice now demands specific and immediate action in response to the rampant deterioration of the government's organizations. That is why I am here, before you, at this moment of truth. I have faith in God and am sure that this moment holds an opportunity to promote the transformation of our society as never before.

I have addressed such important issues as restructuring the executive branch and formulating a peace proposal and have dealt with the government's administrative, economic, and social matters during my two months in office. The tour I took through the countryside last week has strengthened my determination to demonstrate with facts and not just words that the political will to work with and for the people is beginning to take shape. Direct contact with the communities farthest removed from the urban centers, which are traditionally the least cared for, will be the first step in fighting the poverty that burdens an alarming percentage of the population. I am taking the first steps to decentralize government administration, and I have personally and openly delivered eight percent of the national budget to the Municipal mayors, as provided by the Constitution, for a total of 92 million quetzals. I have delivered 20 million quetzals to the regional coordinators of the National System of Urban and Rural Development Councils to implement the community development fund. These funds will be boosted with 50 million quetzals from the social investment fund in the form of priority projects to fight poverty. That means I have painstakingly delivered 162 million quetzals to rural communities in the 2.5 months of my administration.

This direct contact with you, the Guatemalan people, has confirmed your undeniable demand for us to overcome, without further delay, the serious political problems that are affecting the very structure of the state, independent of the attention the government must dedicate to solving the economic and social problems of the nation as a whole, for us to consolidate the democratic process that has cost the country so much. In response to that repeated demand and representing national unity and dignity, with the support that only the true authority of the people can grant to its leaders, I have made the historic decision to begin a national crusade against impunity and corruption. This will allow the sovereign people to demand and achieve the purging of the government's organizations, which has already begun with the executive branch. This is a purely political decision that I, as the country's ruler, must make based on the principles established by the Constitution to restore the people's trust and credibility in the state's institutions. The very survival of our democratic system depends precisely on that trust.

There are groups who are opposed to the purging process because they enjoy special privileges that they have created by manipulating and hiding behind legal institutions that favor corruption and allow them to act with impunity. That is the decision. That is the mandate the president must now fulfill, which is based on the principle of legitimacy that expresses the sovereign right of the Guatemalan people.

Under these circumstances and based on the legitimacy granted by the sovereign authority of the people, it is necessary to state that neither the general principles of law or constitutional doctrine, much less democracy in action, could ever accept the argument of legality to restrict, limit, or suppress the exercise of the preeminent basic right: sovereign authority of the people. Under the current historic circumstances, the expression of this mandate that is conferred by the people's demand has been reiterated to me directly by the Guatemalan people as a general feeling and urgent demand for a purge and renewal of the state organizations as a fundamental premise of the political modernization and consolidation of a democratic state. In response to this popular demand, it is necessary to recover the dignity of the state organizations to restore confidence to the Guatemalan people, thus consolidating a more just and united society.

Thus, and based on an opinion issued yesterday by the Constitutionality Court, in my capacity as the representative of national dignity and trustee of the Guatemalan people's trust and with their support, through this means I exercise the moral and ethical power I have as president to demand that the deputies, in response to popular demand, tender their resignations immediately.

I acknowledge the positive attitude of the 66 deputies who have already tendered resignations before the National Consensus Organization [Instancia Nacional de Consenso]. The 53 deputies who have not yet done so should follow suit.

Deputies: Your voluntary resignation is an historic responsibility, a political decision of special importance that is in keeping with the Constitution and a clear and specific response to an immediate solution to the legitimacy crisis that the branches of state are experiencing.

Deputies: We need to agree that our society must be transformed, that Guatemala is achieving and should advance political modernization and a strengthening of the legitimate legal state. The procedure is clear.

Deputies: the Constitutionality Court already told you how, and there should be no complication if you are politically determined to accept the people's will.

Against this backdrop, it is clear that popular demand also calls for a restructuring of the judicial branch, with special emphasis on the resignation of Supreme Court of Justice judges, who must not ignore this request.

Judges: By honoring the sovereign demand of the Guatemalan people, as one of your members already has done, you would facilitate the consolidation of the democratic process in Guatemala. It is important that you realize that by being purged the Congress and the Supreme Court of Justice will be strengthened, because allowing these actions will support the legal state in our country.

However, this process demands not only the changes that have been requested but also constitutional reforms. I will present a draft for approval by the Congress of the Republic once it has been purged. The full content of the reforms proposed by this completed draft is as follows:

General Reforms

1. Elimination of discretionary funds in all organizations and institutions and of state officials.

2. Codification of the pretrial right. No public official or employee of any state institution, organization, or branch, while not exercising their duties, will enjoy the right to a pretrial. The case should be handled by a jurisdictional organization other than the one to which the accused belongs.

Executive Branch Reforms

1. To strengthen and make independent the Public Prosecutor's Office.

2. To strengthen and make independent the Comptroller General's Office [Contraloria General de Cuentas].

3. To strengthen the Human Rights Ombudsman.

4. The general revenues and expenditures budget of the state will be a public document accessible to any citizen.

Legislative Branch Reforms

A reduction in the number of deputies and a renewal of half of its members at the middle of the corresponding legislative period. The elimination of the national list system for deputy elections.

Judicial Branch Reforms

Election of members of the Supreme Court of Justice through the readjustment of the nomination mechanism. The list of nominees cannot include political party supporters. That will apply to magistrates and judges.

Guatemalan people: As I already told you, I do not have any commitments to political, economic, or social groups. My sole commitment is to the Guatemalan people. That is why I accepted this challenge. I thank all segments of the population for their support, the support of the most isolated communities, men and women of diverse social levels. I have voiced their support, demanding this decision that transcends history and which, as president of the Republic, I cannot and should not overlook. This decision is aimed at achieving the necessary changes to leave our children and grandchildren a better Guatemala.

Deputies and justices: I warn you that if you do not heed my call based on the people's plea and the Constitutionality Court ruling for your resignation [words indistinct], I will make immediate use of the initiative that I have as president—that is, to ask the Supreme Electoral Tribunal to call elections. I will also call on the Guatemalan people to march peacefully for the people's dignity and sovereignty to exercise their constitutional right of legitimate resistance.

Thank you very much, and good night.

Honduras

Callejas Announces Army, Police To Patrol Streets

PA2708003393 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2255 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 25 Aug (NOTIMEX)—Honduran President Rafael Leonardo Callejas announced today that in the next few days the Army will patrol the streets,

without armored personnel carriers [APC's] or other heavy equipment, to provide "protection and security" for the population.

The president said the decision was made at a meeting with Armed Forces Chief Division General Luis Alonso Discua Elvir to discuss the wave of robberies and other violence in Honduras.

Callejas said the Army and police force will patrol the streets of Tegucigalpa, San Pedro Sula, and rural areas when conditions warrant. "These will be combined operations, without heavy equipment, to avoid a repetition of the national and international uncertainty that arises due to these types of situations," he said.

The Army took to Tegucigalpa streets in APC's last April just when several sectors were demanding a reduction in the military budget and Armed Forces personnel.

Honduran, U.S. Troops Stage 'Cabanas 93' Operations

PA2608234193 San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 13 Aug 93 pp 8, 250

[Article by Herbert Rivera]

[Text] Naco, Cortes—The joint exercise 'Cabanas 93' involving more than 2,000 Honduran and U.S. military personnel began in Naco, Cortes Department as part of preparations to fight drug trafficking.

The military exercises will be conducted near Naco as well as in La Ceiba, Trujillo, Puerto Castilla, Cucuyagua, Mocoron, and Islas del Cisne.

The purpose of the exercise is to promote and improve military relations between the United States and Honduras, to train military personnel in counternarcotics operations, and to gauge the effectiveness of combined land, air, and naval operations against drug trafficking.

Jose Martinez Amador, commander of the 105th Infantry Brigade, said the main objective of the operation is to fight drug trafficking, a scourge that devastates mankind, and to evaluate the Honduran soldiers' performance. Martinez predicted that the operation would be a success.

Martinez said that in addition to military maneuvers, the 'Cabanas 93' participants will conduct civic-military actions such as building schools and bridges in Naco and La Ceiba and repairing the landing strip in Puerto Lempira, Gracias a Dios Department.

Honduran Army Commander General Guillermo Paredes will direct the joint exercises, which will conclude on 26 August. The operation began with training exercises by a company of the 3d Infantry Battalion in first aid, communications, and target practice.

The participating troops plan to stage intercept operations and air, land, and sea coastal patrol exercises.

Civic-Military Activities Conducted

PA2608225993 Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 26 Aug 93 p 6

[Excerpts] U.S. Army medical brigades are traveling from Cucuyagua in Copan to La Mosquitia, where they will conduct programs for cholera prevention.

Military troops participating in the "Cabanas 93" maneuvers will develop a social project that has been operating in Honduras for the past three years and that goes beyond just training the national army, several officers involved told LA TRIBUNA. [passage omitted]

U.S. Army representatives reaffirmed that, as was the case in previous years, they will carry out civic-military activities this year. They explained that they will build playgrounds in certain communities so children and youths can enjoy themselves. The representatives also said they will repair schools and community centers to serve many poor families.

"We are not in Honduras just for military maneuvers but also to contribute our two cents to the development of this noble people," the representatives added.

Nicaragua

Commander 31, D. Ortega Hold News Conference

PA2608205293 Managua Radio Ya in Spanish 1527 GMT 26 Aug 93

[News conference by Commander 31, one of the leaders of the Nicaraguan National Dignity and Sovereignty Commando which had been holding UNO hostages, and FSLN Secretary General Daniel Ortega with foreign and domestic reporters at the UNO headquarters in Managua—live]

[Text] [Commander 31] [Words indistinct] today, the first phase of the National Unity [as heard] and Sovereignty Commando concluded. It consisted in teaching a lesson to National Opposition Union [UNO] politicians who had been conducting politics on behalf of the Nicaraguan people. As of this moment, the National Unity and Sovereignty Commando is voluntarily dissolved. The commandos who do not want to accompany us to the mountains with the chief of the commando are free to go. I spoke with them. As for myself, I will now go to the airport to board a helicopter to meet [words indistinct] where the FROC [Peasant-Worker Revolutionary Front] forces are located. We are going to talk with them and [five-second break in reception] Alfredo Cesar, Duilio Baltodano were released, the political agitation began.

They began to say that we were violating their human rights here. This is completely false. We want to state to the world that our commando is dignified, humane, and respectful of human life. At no time did we violate human rights. This action was conducted to rescue

national dignity and sovereignty. The second phase of this command consists of going to the mountains. There, after holding talks, we will seek ways to establish contacts with the 3-80 force so that together we can reach an agreement and avoid a real civil war in Nicaragua.

There are important issues in the nation's life such as the political problems in the state, the administrative corruption in the state, the shameless theft in the state, the decomposition in the national assembly, and other points that we want resolved.

We think the mediation efforts by former President Daniel Ortega Saavedra, the CIAV-OAS [OAS International Commission of Support and Verification], and the various human rights commissions yielded results so a solution could be found without the loss of human lives. We want to turn over these installations to you. We have not taken anything from here. Everything has been left here, from a pin, a paper clip to a pencil holder. We are not taking anything from here. When I reach the mountains as chief of this commando, Commando 31 will decide whether it will continue to take up arms or if it desists from taking up arms. There are things we have not been able to discuss here, such as the problem of all the discharged soldiers in the world, in the world. We are (?urging) all existing commissions to unite and discuss problems of a civilian nature with the government.

We kept our word about releasing Virgilio Godoy, Alfredo Cesar, Duilio Baltodano, and Reynaldo Hernandez of private enterprise. We clarified that in their hands is the solution to Nicaragua's political problem but that Antonio Lacayo, the president, and the National Assembly are also responsible for this. They are also responsible for the reorganization of the government and the property problem. There are two major forces in this country [five-second break in reception] Armed Forces and the Nicaraguan Resistance [RN], to whom the promises have been made but not kept. For that reason, as long as they are not represented or seated there [in the Assembly] the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] should not speak on their behalf. People discharged from the Government Ministry, the Army, and the RN should come and present their problems. I clarify this to my companeros so they will not be manipulated by cheap politicians who are trying to take an active role in this country. Thanks to the Nicaraguan people, thanks to the media who accompanied us [six-second break in reception] I await. Fatherland or death, companeros, we will overcome. I neither sell out nor yield.

I want to refer to these events that have shaken the country in recent days. I believe this should compel all Nicaraguans—and particularly the political leaders of the UNO, the FSLN, and the government to make some quick decisions. We must reach agreements that allow us to save Nicaragua.

I feel that the efforts made by His Eminence Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo in the northern area with the members of the peace commission that was appointed to that effect, and here by the peace commission that I have led have yielded the results we expected. In other words, we do not have to regret any deaths [14-second break in reception]

The great lesson Nicaraguans must learn from this is that, once and for all, we must put an end to violence. To achieve this goal, government and political leaders must set the example. I call on National Opposition Union leaders to work together with the government so as to get Nicaragua ahead.

[Words indistinct] that language is the result of the great tension that has prevailed, and they are just letting go of some steam. Later on, they will think it over and they will act in a constructive manner so that the spirit of the agreements signed the morning of 21 August at the Government Palace will prevail.

Ortega Blames Helms, Rightist Groups

PA2608185993 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1751 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Excerpts] Mexico City, 26 Aug (NOTIMEX)—Nicaraguan opposition leader Daniel Ortega has blamed opposition rightist groups, Cuban exiles, and U.S. Senator Jesse Helms for the kidnapping crisis in his country, according to statements published here today.

Helms and a group of Cuban exiles in Miami launched, with the approval of the conservative National Opposition Union (UNO) alliance, a campaign to reject the government amnesty plan and they encouraged the actions by "recontras," Ortega told the newspaper EL SOL DE MEXICO.

Ortega stated that Helms attempted to block the amnesty with his proposal, which was approved by the U.S. Senate, to suspend an aid package to Nicaragua. He also implicated the Cosep [Higher Council of Private Enterprise] private enterprise group in the plot.

Last May, Helms managed to have the Senate condition the delivery of $104 million to Nicaragua to the clarification of the arsenals belonging to former Salvadoran guerrillas found in Nicaragua. Another condition is that the U.S. Government inform the Senate that no Nicaraguan official is involved in issuing Nicaraguan passports found as a result of the investigations on the terrorist attack in February in New York.

"It appears that this is all part of a plan because the UNO's extreme right, Cosep with Ramiro Gurdian at the head; these rearmed groups, and Jesse Helms, with the amendment introduced by the U.S. Senate, appear to be involved," Ortega said referring to the crisis.

When speaking about the Cosep, Ortega referred to the business organization called the Higher Council of Private Enterprise.

The secretary general of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] stated that Cuban exiles, without

identifying them, have been involved in terrorist actions against Cuba from Miami, adding that the recontras admitted their connections with Jesse Helms.

According to Ortega, one of the members of the self-styled 3-80 Northern Front, which sparked the crisis last week by kidnapping a government negotiating delegation, "declared that contacts have been maintained" with the U.S. Senate. "They have recently held meetings with the U.S. Senate, meaning Helms and company," the opposition leader said during the interview held in Managua on 25 August. [passage omitted]

According to Ortega, the hostage crisis left positive results because "for the first time the UNO, FSLN, and government representatives were able to meet."

The opposition leader insisted in asking President Violeta Chamorro for a government of national unity, a new economic policy, and the solution of the controversial property problem involving 200,000 houses and plots of land that had been given out by the Sandinist regime.

A new economic policy must promote production. It must be complemented with social programs and the abandonment of the adjustments that have led to unemployment and low productivity, Ortega said when calling for a complete application of the recently approved amnesty for rearmed groups.

Recalling the occupation of cities that have been carried out by the "recontras" since last year, Ortega attributed them to the lack of production, unemployment, and the government's noncompliance with the agreements signed with the rearmed groups. The "recontras" are counterrevolutionaries, who, with U.S. assistance, fought the Sandinist regime and later rearmed themselves to fight the Chamorro government, claiming it had failed to observe social and economic agreements.

Ortega said it is premature to talk about the possibility of running for office to replace Chamorro. "It is a topic the Sandinists have yet to decide; we believe it is too early to talk about candidacies," he concluded.

Ortega: New Armed Confrontation 'Impossible'

PA2608153393 Paris AFP in Spanish 0945 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] Madrid, 26 Aug (AFP)—In an interview published Thursday by the Spanish daily DIARIO 16, Nicaraguan leader Daniel Ortega feels a new civil armed confrontation is impossible in Nicaragua, but he thinks that the only way for attaining peace is by solving the serious economic and social problems of the country.

Concerning the possible dismissal of General Humberto Ortega as Army chief, Daniel Ortega said that Humberto Ortega's "retirement or dismissal is something directly linked to the Nicaraguan Army's basic law and not the request of kidnappers or the U.S. Government."

Regarding the criticism made against President Violeta Chamorro's trip to Mexico in the midst of the crisis, Daniel Ortega told DIARIO 16 that "the fact that President Chamorro left the country during this national emergency does not mean at all she has abandoned the country. The kidnappings," he said, "are not the only problem Nicaragua has. The country is going through a profound crisis and the president is seeking support in Mexico."

In the interview, Ortega adds: "I do not believe democracy is in danger, but for this democratic project to be carried out peacefully, it is necessary that the economic situation change; for this situation to change, it is necessary that the threats of a blockade end."

According to Ortega, 68 percent of the Nicaraguan population is unemployed, and 78 percent of the people live in extreme poverty. "The Nicaraguan people want peace but a peace that will also guarantee them a dignified life," Daniel Ortega concluded.

Sandinist People's Army Withdraws From Esteli

PA2608193693 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Report by Gustavo Acuna from Esteli—live]

[Text] The Sandinist People's Army [EPS] a few minutes ago finished withdrawing the heavy artillery and armored vehicles it had in Esteli and which had been sent to reinforce EPS positions last week when the kidnapping situation began in Quilali.

We have learned that approximately (?21) Army vehicles, including four Katyushas [four-second break in reception] heading to Managua. This complies with the agreements reached last night by the negotiations commission and the 3-80 Northern Front that called for the withdrawal of the troops from the northern area of the country.

It was reported that the heavy weapons and armored vehicles that were withdrawn this afternoon from Esteli and sent to Managua belong to the Oscar Turcios Tank Brigade and the Omar (?Torrijos) Brigade from Managua.

The two helicopters that took the members of the Dignity and Sovereignty Command to the security area in San Jeronino, north of Condega, returned to Managua about 10 minutes ago. The helicopters have returned to Managua, inasmuch as they have fulfilled the mission of leaving the members of the Dignity and Sovereignty Command in the security zone.

Managua Radio Resumes Broadcasting After 7-Day Silence

PA2708054293 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1526 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] Managua, 26 Aug (ACAN - EFE)—The anti-Sandinist radio station Radio Corporacion resumed its

regular programming on 26 August following seven days of forced silence after its studios were partially damaged, presumably by an armed Sandinist group.

"The terrorist attacks will not force us to submit. We will continue our same line in defense of democracy and denouncing Sandinist crimes," a radio spokesperson said.

More than 10 armed, masked men forced their way into the studios last Friday and opened fire on the broadcasting equipment, glass doors, and office material, causing losses estimated by the owners at over $100,000.

The attack took place one-half hour after "Commando 40 for Sovereignty and Dignity" attacked the National Opposition Union (UNO) headquarters and kidnapped 33 persons, including Vice President Virgilio Godoy.

Jose Castillo Osejo, director general of Radio Corporacion, reported today that the 20 August attack was the seventh terrorist attack against the radio station.

The first attack was carried out during the regime of Anastasio Somoza Debayle. According to station owners, Somoza ordered the destruction of the antenna and transmission equipment.

During the Sandinist regime, the radio station was the target of three other attacks that forced the it off the air for several days. The other attacks occurred during the current government of Violeta Chamorro.

The radio station's reporters claim they have received death threats through anonymous telephone calls.

"We know that those threatening us are the same ones who damaged our studios," one of the radio announcers said following the 20 August attack. The radio station has been guarded by the police since the last attack.

Members of the defunct "contras" who were in the station studios at the time of the attack said they will remain there for some time "to protect" Radio Corporacion installations.

Argentina

Uruguayan Vessels Caught Fishing Illegally

PY2608232493 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1920 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 26 Aug (NA)—A Coast Guard vessel of the Naval Prefecture today caught two Uruguayan fishing vessels fishing illegally in Argentine waters, it was officially reported in this capital.

Personnel from the Naval Prefecture drew up the appropriate document and ordered the immediate departure from the Argentine coast of the Uruguayan boats "Albamar" and "Copamar," in accordance with the provisions of the River Plate and Maritime Front Treaty.

This took place off the the coast of the Buenos Aires neighborhood of Las Toninas, where the Uruguayan fishing vessels had caught almost 40 tonnes of different types of fish.

Moreover, the Coast Guard detachment in charge of inspecting the ships verified that the boat "Albamar" did not have its itinerary updated in its navigation book.

Bolivia

Entrance of Uniformed Brazilians at Border Investigated

PY2608215093 La Paz Television Nacional Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Antonio Aranibar talked today about the alleged entrance of uniformed Brazilians into Bolivian territory.

[Begin Aranibar recording] A few days ago we announced the joint decision by both Foreign Ministries to visit the points of the alleged entrance to establish what happened. We do not want to see the specific problem from a police point of view, more to establish if the border markers can clearly be seen so that people know if they have crossed the border. This is now underway and we hope to have a clearer picture within the next few days. The Foreign Ministry knows that border crossings are linked to commercial activities and to criminal activities involving those who live on the border. We want to establish from the Bolivian point of view if the border is clearly marked and visible, so that people will be unable to later deny that they crossed the border. [end recording]

Brazil

Mexico Will Not Join Coffee Association

PY2608145993 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2139 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] Brasilia, 25 Aug (EFE)—Brazilian official sources said in Brasilia today that Mexico preferred not to be a member of the International Association of Coffee Producing Countries [Asociacion Internacional de Paises Productores de Cafe—AIPPC] sponsored by Colombia and Brazil due to its commitments to the North American Free Trade Agreement [NAFTA].

Despite being invited to join in the negotiations to create AIPPC and to support holding back coffee sales to get higher prices, Mexico, the world's fourth-largest coffee producer, preferred not to attend the meeting.

Initiatives to create the association and to hold back 20 percent of each country's exports are sponsored by Brazil and Colombia, and have obtained the support of almost all the Latin American producers such as Ecuador, Peru, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala.

The 20 members of the Inter-African Coffee Organization made a commitment this month at a meeting in Kampala to support the Latin American proposals, which will be formalized during a ministerial meeting to be held in Brasilia on 23 and 24 September.

Although Mexico has not discarded joining the initiatives, it has preferred to remain as an observer because it is more interested in reaffirming its links to the United States and Canada through NAFTA rather than increasing coffee prices in the international market.

The Brazilian Industry and Commerce Ministry said the accumulation of 20 million bags (60 kg each) in reserves keeps the coffee supply high in detriment to prices.

The holding back program, whose control mechanisms are still under study, aims to increase coffee demand and the discussions of the process alone has already caused a price increase in the market.

In response to an EFE question, the Mexican Embassy in Brasilia said in relation to AIPPC's creation that the Mexican position is "to closely observe all the new developments in the regional and international fields."

Mexico produces 4.7 million bags (60 kg each) of which 1.5 million are consumed domestically and the remaining bags are exported, according to the Mexican Coffee Council. Ninety percent of the exports are sent to the United States, Germany, and Japan.

Brazilian Industry and Commerce Ministry Jose Eduardo Vieira expressed his interest in association membership for India, Vietnam, Indonesia, and Malaysia, which are Asian producers, also.

Vieira indicated that so far the consumer countries have exerted no pressure to prevent the creation of the association. He added that Brazil will attend the annual sessions of the International Coffee Organization (ICO) in London in September. The ICO is made up of 75 members, both producers and consumers. Vieira said: "We participate in ICO to show our good will and not be accused of not cooperating in possible negotiations."

Justice Minister Interviewed on Indian Massacre

PY2608224493 Rio de Janeiro Rede Manchete Television in Portuguese 0149 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Interview with Justice Minister Mauricio Correa during Power Play program conducted by journalist Carlos Chagas at the Rede Manchete studios; recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Chagas] Minister, has the Ianomami Indian massacre been confirmed? Does the lack of bodies not invalidate the charge? In other words, has a murder been committed if there is no dead body?

[Correa] I went there when I learned about it. The president authorized me to go. I was honored by the company of Attorney General Aristides Junqueira, and this shows that the government does not conceal anything over human rights violations. Our presence there was very opportune. We visited those two Indian villages, which are called (?Xaponas), which is an Ianomami word. We saw that the two villages had been burned, we found empty 12-gauge cartridges, larger caliber shells, pots with bullet holes, packets of cigars, footprints of the heavy boots which, they say, are used by gold prospectors. This is the first evidence, and it shows something serious.

The second evidence is the disappearance of the community. There were just five Indians who might have survived the incident.

Third, I would also take into account the statements by the surviving Indians, who categorically state that they saw bodies piled up outside the villages.

[Chagas] And where are those bodies?

[Correa] We managed to find one. There were doubts as to whether the body was of an Indian, and as to whether he had been killed. Today I received a report from a forensic expert, who is there, saying that based on anatomical features of the body and the skull, it is the body of an Ianomami Indian. The skull had two bullet holes.

The jungle is very cruel and fierce, especially for us white people. No one really knows what has actually happened. It would be silly of me to say that 50, 30, or 40 people died, because the bodies were not found.

The criminals have not been found either. I can assure you that something extremely serious happened. I was in the (?Tchide) village, 20 km from the Venezuelan border, and there I found some 60 Indians from neighboring villages, fearful and filled with horror of the events, who went to ask for shelter in that village. They all said an extremely serious incident happened there.

That is the evidence. We must now is clarify the events. This is why the meeting by the National Defense Council, which was called by the president, was very important, and I would say even healthy. First, the president decided to designate a minister to specifically take charge of the Amazon area, in which there are enormous problems. Our borders are totally vulnerable because there is no monitoring equipment or telephone equipment. We must enforce the (Sipa) [expansion unknown], which is the program for the protection of the Amazon.

[Chagas] Minister, did the National Defense Council consider the possibility of a plot against Brazil, of an attempt to internationalize the Amazon?

[Correa] No, no, there was no specific debate on that matter. Yet there is concern because in the Ianomami area, where the beauty of the vegetation and the extremely healthy ecological conditions coexists with gold prospectors, whose presence is really disastrous because they make vulnerable that beautiful area that one can see from a helicopter or from a plane. The area has gold, diamonds, and cassiterite. It is a very rich zone, whose potential has not yet been measured...

[Chagas, interrupting] Exposed to greed...

[Correa] In that area, one does not know when one is crossing the border into Venezuela or vice versa. The program must be implemented as soon as possible, so that we may guarantee that Brazilian border areas and Brazilian territory will remain untouched, and that Indians will be protected.

I am not against the demarcation of Indian lands. I believe that the government is doing the right thing. We must preserve primitive cultures. Many people claim those Indians have already become civilized, but this is not true. The Indians are primitive, they live naked, and their funeral rites are very complex. It is a very interesting culture, and we should do everything in our power to preserve it.

[Excerpts] [Chagas] Minister, many people claim that too much land has been assigned to too few Indians. Do you agree with that?

[Correa] No, I don't because it is a narrow, wrong position. When we arrived in Brazil, when the Portuguese arrived here, the Indians occupied this territory. Depredation has occurred. The Americans did the same, and the Europeans did the same in Africa, in Asia, etc.

In Brazil we still have reserves, we have isolated Indians who have never met with white men. This proves the importance of the presence of Indians in those areas.

The Constitution sets forth that traditional Indian lands must be preserved. Consequently, it is absurd to claim that 5,000 hectares are being assigned to each Indian, and to wonder what each Indian will do with 5,000 hectares. It is necessary to know their cultural habits, their lifestyle. They are generally nomads. They travel over large territories and they depend on other Indian communities. Therefore, they need this territory. There are sacred Indian areas.

Consequently, the problem should not be addressed from the viewpoint of the area that corresponds to each of them, but from the viewpoint of the preservation of their entire territory. I therefore believe the Para State governor's protest reflects a wrong position because we are trying to preserve their territory, where they travel, hunt, and fish, which must be preserved.

[Chagas] Minister, can those criminals responsible for the massacre be recuperated? Does this not renew the barbaric thesis of the death penalty?

[Correa] I do not advocate death penalty. I advocate more rigorous punishment for some crimes committed in Brazil.

Today I will submit to the president a bill modifying a law that defines evil crimes. We have already approved the law, abiding by the Constitution, but the law has an omission which I want to correct. When death squads or annihilation groups opperate, the members of such groups who commit crimes as part of a gang should also be considered responsible for these evil crimes.

I am submitting this bill because the Rio de Janeiro case fits exactly within this context. If one or a group of military policeman are considered guilty, they cannot be considered for favors granted to common criminals, and the penalties imposed on them should be as severe as is set forth by the law on evil crimes. I believe this is a healthy amendment that we must approve.

We should make it clear that it is not just Indians that have disappeared, but there is no evidence concerning those responsible.

President Itamar Franco's concern, which is our own, from the viewpoint of the government, is to investigate deeper, building a structure in the area, as we decided yesterday.

We have helicopters because it is necessary to bring the surviving Indians here, listen to them, and translate their remarks, that is, there must be an interpreter.

It is necessary to trace and to find those bodies. We must know if the Indians burned the bodies, because they do cremate their dead. They have important rituals. They hold a party to which neighboring villages are invited. They burn the remaining bones and mix them with banana bread, which they eat because they think that this way they will incorporate the life that has just gone, and that this way the community will continue to live.

[Chagas] Minister, still on the Amazonas, is the government concerned about U.S. troop maneuvers near the Brazilian border?

[Correa] If you allow me, I will return to a previous topic in connection with the Ianomamis, in order to address the subject that you have mentioned.

Over the Ianomami, undoubtedly there is concern that the massacre could have occurred in view of the information that the Indians gave to Venezuelan guards.

There is an airport, the Bandeirantes airport, which is said to be partly in Venezuelan territory and partly in Brazilian territory. It is therefore necessary to reinforce our security. It is necessary to give power and conditions to the Army. If you could see Surucucu you would be staggered by the troop of 69 men who are there to defend the Brazilian territory. Those soldiers are strongly, vigorously, and enthusiastically patriotic. It is therefore necessary to reinforce them.

As for your question, Chagas...

[Chagas interrupts] ... the maneuvers by U.S. troops.

[Correa] Ah, yes. Obviously, even though the U.S. Ambassador has formally denied it, it is unusual that those troops—which may include troops from other countries—should be sent exactly at this time and exactly near the Brazilian border to learn to live in the jungle.

We should, therefore, at least consider this situation with some caution. This is exactly what the government is doing.

[Chagas] Taking care.

[Correa] Taking care. [passage omitted]

[Chagas] Minister, are relations with President Itamar Franco difficult? Is he peevish? Does he wake ministers early in the morning? How are things with him?

[Correa] President Franco is very concerned about public issues. Consequently, if beans are rotting somewhere, even if it is 0100, 0200 or 0300, he wakes ministers and demands the adoption of measures. He believes that beans cannot rot in a country where people are starving.

If he receives a report like the one, for example, concerning events in Roraima, he demands immediate clarification and demands information from his ministers. Yet he is a man of integrity, and those who know him and know how to coexist with him... [changes pattern] this type of coexistence is very healthy. I have no complaints about him and I am on very good terms with him.

I believe he is a patriot who is trying to succeed and who has succeeded.

When he said Brazil should make a popular car, he favored producing again the Fusca [Brazilian version of the Volkswagen Beetle], and there was a sales drive throughout Brazil. We were in Sao Paulo yesterday and we were told that 15,000 people have said they want to buy one.

There are promising expectations for a record production level of 1,300,000 units this year, and for an extraordinary boom in this sector in 1994.

It is clear that the economy is growing, everyone is aware of it. The economy has overcome the recession and we are in a phase of growth. Inflation is the only problem that the president and all of us have. Inflation depends on circumstances. We must control inflation, trying to find mechanisms for overcoming the inflation growth crisis. [passage omitted]

[Chagas] Minister, this matter does not fall within your jurisdiction, but it is a Brazilian matter. When will inflation drop? When will interest rates drop?

[Correa] I have great admiration and appreciation for [Finance Minister] Fernando Henrique Cardoso. I know about his concern. Those who saw him when he was at the Foreign Ministry saw him with a pleasant countenance, and his hair was not as gray as it is now. This means he is bearing a heavy burden.

Inflation cannot be reduced with impact or shock mechanisms which have had traumatic effects and which have failed. What he is doing is a marathon work and the president has given him full support. The president persistently reiterates that he supports the minister.

Yet we have to agree that it is a complicated matter. The inflationary tradition that has developed in Brazil, with price increases above the inflation rate, is deplorable. Just imagine that while the government was studying the salary policy, many businessmen were increasing their prices just because of the expectations of a monthly inflation figure. This produces excessive inflation.

[Chagas] Minister, are you concerned about activities by some reserve officers who are talking about or advocating a coup? Are the Justice Ministry and the Federal Police following these events?

[Correa] I can tell you that I am not worried about that. We live in a democratic state of law in which people's liberties are fully respected.

If a military man wants to be a candidate, well, everyone has the right to run. I do not believe there are irregularities or movements that will lead to a break of the institutional order. I do not believe that.

The government has its Strategic Affairs Secretariat and it has information. I can say that we are not afraid of anything. President Franco is attentive and alert. There is absolutely no concern in this regard.

I can say that the three military ministers are in perfect harmony with President Itamar Franco, that their conversations are very frank, and that they have no fear. Those minor meetings are held by obsolete leaders, by people who would like the return of the regime of force, the regime of jack boots. The president and the military ministers are not concerned about this, they are aware that the democratic process is irreversible and that there is an increasing number of people who are exercising their civic rights. [passage omitted]

[Chagas] At the beginning of this program you talked about the presidential succession, about the haste of some candidates. Do you believe Brazil will have to elect either Lula [Ignacio Lula da Silva of the Workers Party] or Maluf [Paulo Maluf of the Social Democratic Party] or that there can be another alternative?

[Correa] I believe there may be a third alternative. I have just been in Sao Paulo for the delivery of the first Fusca, and the president was there. The president was not booed, he was applauded.

Sao Paulo Prefect Paulo Maluf was there too. He had a group of some 50 people linked with radical movements, who strongly booed and upset his speeches. I believe this is not constructive, that it does not help. Extremism from either side is inappropriate.

A center position movement with a leader who really wants to help Brazil with clear, precise ideas, with proposals that are acceptable to society; a dynamic leader; someone who really wants to manage this country, I believe will become president, and this is what I want.

[Chagas] Are you describing Cardoso's profile? Will the government sponsor a candidate?

[Correa] No, the government will not engage in that. President Franco will not have candidate, he does not even have a party. Cardoso is undoubtedly an excellent candidate. Yet I believe a lot will depend on his performance, and at times Cardoso's actions—which are the government actions—are disturbed precisely because of fear of the growth of his image. Disturbing attacks come from everywhere out of fear that he might manage to control inflation. Ambition unfortunately is at times stronger than the interest of the country.

[Chagas] There are people who favor inflation because of the presidential succession.

[Correa] There are many people who want stronger inflation, who want hyperinflation to impair the prestige of a person who can be a catalyst for the results of a policy that can end the chaotic inflation in Brazil. Beyond all doubt. [passage omitted]

Supreme Court Rejects Legal Action Against IPMF

PY2708033993 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] The Supreme Court has rejected the first lawsuit (recurso) against the IPMF [Provisional Tax on Financial Operations]. Justice Moreira Alves has dismissed the petition for a court injunction against the IPMF filed by Deputy Jose Maria Eymael. In his decision, Justice Moreira Alves says that a petition for a court injunction is not applicable to a law in force or, in this case, the

complementary law that regulates the collection of the IPMF. In practice, Justice Moreira Alves means that Deputy Eymael has filed an incorrect petition. In order to question the legitimacy of the IPMF, Deputy Eymael should have directly filed a petition of unconstitutionality against the IPMF, and not a petition for a court injunction.

The Supreme Court this afternoon received a new petition for a court injunction against the IPMF filed by the General Workers Confederation [CGT]. This petition for a court injunction will be analyzed by Justice Sydney Sanches, who is already studying an identical petition for a court injunction filed yesterday by the governors of the states of Parana, Mato Grosso, Mato Grosso do Sul, and Santa Catarina. Justice Sanches wants more time to study these two petitions for a court injunction, which will be tried during a plenary session on 1 September.

Despite this first victory in the Supreme Court, the government will insist on a ruling declaring the constitutionality of the IPMF.

Finance Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso said that he will not give up on collecting the IPMF.

[Begin Cardoso recording] Naturally, we must request a declaration of constitutionality for it, which is incumbent upon the Counsel General's Office. In my opinion it must be declared constitutional. [end recording]

Federal Revenue Office Coordinator Aristofanes Fontoura said that the finance minister has made a political decision, because he wants to clarify the legality of collecting the IPMF. According to Fontoura there already exists a constitutional amendment excluding the IPMF from the principle of retroactivity [principio de anterioridade—by which no tax can be collected during the same fiscal year it is created]—that is, the tax can be collected even if it was approved this year.

The Rio Grande do Sul Government obtained a favorable court decision on not paying the IPMF. More than 200 petitions for court injunctions against the collection of this tax have been filed, but they were all turned down or rejected.

The federal court of the fourth region of Rio Grande do Sul State this afternoon ruled against two temporary injunctions granted by a federal court, one of which was filed by the Porto Alegre municipality and the other by the Porto Alegre Store Owners Union, against paying the IPMF.

According to (Luizer Cardoso), superintendent of the legal department of the Rio Grande do Sul Revenue Office, this office also filed today another suit requesting the cancellation of the temporary injunction granted by Judge (Silvia Guarayev), from the 12th federal court, where the Rio Grande do Sul government filed a petition for a court injunction to annul payment of the IPMF.

Before resorting to the Federal Supreme Court, the government will wait for the decisions by the lower courts on this case. The Finance Ministry has already concluded the studies to request the Federal Supreme Court to declare the constitutionality of the IPMF. This was reported by National Finance Attorney Wagner Pires Ribeiro. He says that the measure may be postponed if the government continues winning the cases through petitions for a court injunction.

[Begin Pires Ribeiro recording] The government can already request this of the Supreme Court. Our studies are ready. We will do so at the appropriate time. However, if we begin winning the cases through this new means, which is the petition for a court injunction in favor of the IPMF, the measure may be postponed for a next stage. However, we can proceed immediately, because we have the elements ready. [end recording]

Pires Ribeiro added that the victory in the Rio Grande do Sul Federal Court is opening a new path to allow the government to defend the collection of a new tax.

Chile

De Klerk Warns Against False Hopes

MB2608204393 Johannesburg SABC TV 1 Network in English 2000 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] State President F. W. de Klerk says government, labor, and the business sector should work together for the good of South Africa's economy and not against each other for individual short- term advantage. Mr. de Klerk, who is on a week-long South American tour, was addressing an audience in Santiago, Chile. We apologize for the poor sound quality of the tape. Isabel Oosthuizen reports:

[Oosthuizen] At a news conference yesterday President de Klerk said the biggest stumbling blocks in the way of a negotiated settlement were the activities of the far-right and far-leftwing groups and unrealistic expectations. The greatest challenge to the interim government would be to steer its way through these expectations.

Mr. de Klerk said sustained economic growth will provide the best safeguard for constitutional expectations. An urgent, steady, and sustained effort to address the problems of the poorest section of the community is needed, and not an attempt to redistribute wealth, which the country did not have. He also admitted that the government was disturbed by the amount of people leaving the country—the so-called brain drain—but he was confident that people's fears would subside once a government of national unity had proved its worth.

In the discussions between President de Klerk and President Aylwin they analyzed the current political situation in the world, the realities of Africa and Latin America, and bilateral trade. Mr. de Klerk was particularly interested in Chile's successful implementation of its new economic policies. [end recording]

Colombia

National Police Director Interviewed

PA2608150493 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 15 Aug 93 pp 1A, 16A

[Interview with National Police Director Miguel Antonio Gomez Padilla by unidentified EL TIEMPO reporter; place and date not given]

[Text] [EL TIEMPO] People who participated in the drafting of the reforms of the National Police and who have followed the reforms process have said that some initial progress has been made and that "it has been demonstrated that the police can be reformed."

[Gomez] The National Police have never questioned the fact that they have to improve and fit all its professional procedures within the framework of the Constitution of 1991. We have never been opposed to that. It was the National Police who presented the first reforms proposal, which did not make progress within the commission.

[EL TIEMPO] There are three aspects: The Civil Commission [Comisionado Civil], the citizens' supervision, and specialists.

[Gomez] This would be initiated some other way. The Constitution of 1991 clearly describes the police as a civil armed institution. Their objective is to guarantee the exercise of public liberties. This represents a new concept of the police function.

Regarding the reforms, yes, there are reforms. One of them had been much sought by the police: qualified policemen, their professionalization, and the enhancing of their respectability. There are ways of producing this: the academic demands that must be met for admission, the training process, and enhancing job respectability.

In addition, the career statutes for officers, noncommissioned officers, and agents; the discipline and honor system; the qualification and classification regulations; the Military Housing Bank; and the Private Guard Superintendency, will be restructured.

The reforms create the National Police Security and Welfare Institute, which will look after the health, education, recreation, and housing fronts.

[EL TIEMPO] Is the police inspector's image in crisis?

[Gomez] No. In the past two years the police dismissed a large number of agents for violating the law. Besides, the commanders still have the power to adopt disciplinary actions. The commissioner is a valuable figure and will be a key element in maintaining internal discipline and, most of all, in reinforcing credibility within the community. The police have nothing to hide. Incidentally, this is a new post throughout the Latin culture.

[EL TIEMPO] Experts in this field argue that the reforms will resolve a serious divorce between what the command levels program and what their subordinates do on the streets, and another divorce between the police and the community. Is this argument wrong?

[Gomez] I would not call it divorce, as there are not three police forces working separately. Before, however, there was no possibility for professional development such as that defined in the new law. The police force was more concerned about professionalizing its officers, but did not do as much for its NCO's and agents. This is something we have been correcting. There are very few NCO's on the force; some 4,200 of the 60,000 men. There is one NCO for every seven enlisted men in the Army. The government, however, is planning to increase the number of NCO's on the police force to 20,000 over the next four years. In December of 1993 we will have the first 5,000 privates second class, who will mostly come from among the agents. Thus we will begin to close the gaps within the institution, because this is the beginning of a career that could lead a police officer to a high-ranking position.

[EL TIEMPO] What about the community?

[Gomez] I must first emphasize that police officers are not always seen throughout Colombia as enemies of the community. This idea has been generalized to extremes. Not every citizen is mistreated by the police. There are places in Colombia where a police officer is also a school teacher, a nurse, a patient, and even the spiritual counselor for the community.

There is determination and will in the police force to move closer day by day to the community and the citizen. That is the objective of the citizens' supervisory and support committees.

Now, a police officer must be capable of clearly distinguishing between an honest, law-abiding citizen and a criminal, and must do away with all the stereotypes. This is because a policeman sometimes sees an untidy and poorly dressed individual as a criminal and not a poor, honest person. We need a police force that is conscious of this.

[EL TIEMPO] Is this the case of young people in the towns of Medellin and low-income areas of different cities?

[Gomez] We must work at eradicating the stereotype that being young in certain areas of the country is tantamount to being a criminal or being prone to committing offenses. The police philosophy must be that every citizen is a friend, and that even criminals are not an enemy of the police but people who on the other side of the law.

I will say this another way: I have this great dream that I see Colombian policemen walking as unarmed as

possible, protected simply by their uniform, the authority with which they are imbued, and protected by the people.

[EL TIEMPO] Do you sincerely believe the reform will put an end to situations such as the involvement of Unase [Antiextortion and Kidnapping Unit] personnel in Medellin to kidnapping and extortion cases and other instances of corruption?

[Gomez] It must be made very clear this actions should have never happened. Errors have never been an institutional policy. Now, the lone figure of the commissioner will not ensure actions that stand outside the law will not happen. [sentence as published] I do not know. Some may think this reform is a panacea and will work miracles.

[EL TIEMPO] The reform structures three different kinds of police. What is your profile?

[Gomez] I believe there is need for police attributes to be made more suitable to the duties they will be carrying out. The civilian police, the ones in the city, have to do a lot with regulations on violations, establishing close contact with the public, city work involving parks, avenues, and traffic. These are administrative and prevention police officers.

When I refer to a rural policeman, I hope my statements are not misinterpreted within the Latin framework of rural realities [ruras-ruralites]. No. The rural police must also have their own special attributes and formulations, but the manner in which these police are managed must be different. These are police that will be involved in the agriculture sector. He must be prepared to handle these problems. An investigation police must be an expert in judicial police issues and criminal investigation.

[EL TIEMPO] Were the Offices of the Prosecutor General and the Attorney General mistaken when they suggested a restructuring that involved an end to the office of the general [generalato]...? Are these reforms merely cosmetic?

[Gomez] The prosecutor general and the attorney general were members of the external reform commission and I understand that there was an unexpected misunderstanding in their proposals. No, this is not substantial, it is very descriptive. There was also talk about transferring the police to the Government Ministry but they forgot all about the historical reasons that led to assigning the police to the Ministry of Defense. With respect to the character of the reform, it is a real reform.

Ecuador

Government To Maintain Dialogue With Peru

PA2608161993 Paris AFP in Spanish 1756 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] Guayaquil, Ecuador, 25 Aug (AFP)—The Ecuadoran Government announced on 25 August its decision to maintain its dialogue with Peru despite a recent Peruvian military incursion in Ecuadoran territory that cooled down relations between both countries.

"We will maintain our dialogue with Peru to find honorable solutions to pending matters and to ensure frank and fruitful cooperation between our peoples," Ecuadoran President Sixto Duran-Ballen said.

The decision was made amid a bitter internal controversy on whether the Ecuadoran president should travel to Lima this year after a Peruvian patrol entered Ecuadoran territory and raised the Peruvian flag. The incident occurred two weeks ago in La Isla, a few meters from the common border.

The incident sparked strong civilian and political protests at a time when the Ecuadoran Foreign Ministry was carefully planning Duran-Ballen's trip.

Ecuadoran Foreign Minister Diego Paredes and the Peruvian ambassador to Quito tried to minimize the importance of the incursion, saying it was a military mistake.

Influential Ecuadoran politicians interpreted it as a signal from the Peruvian Army against diplomatic dialogue.

They said that talks were aimed at seeking a solution for a territorial dispute, the existence of which Peruvian diplomats have traditionally denied.

"I believe Duran-Ballen should not travel to Peru," said former President Leon Febres Corero (1984 to 1988). He interpreted the military action as "a divorce between the Foreign Ministry and the Peruvian Armed Forces."

Ecuador is demanding a sovereign outlet to the Amazon River—discovered in the 16th century by an expedition that departed from Quito—as compensation for the territorial loss of 200,0000 square kilometers as a result of a war between the two countries in 1941.

The cooling of relations was aggravated when Ecuadoran Congress President Samuel Belletini, a liberal, frankly expressed his doubts about Peruvian intentions and called Peru "the Cain of the Americas."

In response, the Peruvian Foreign Ministry summoned the Ecuadoran ambassador in Lima as a protest.

Guayaquil daily EL UNIVERSO on 25 August published a caricature showing a heavily armed Peruvian soldier expressing indignation after hoisting the Ecuadoran flag in his own country.

Despite the mistrust caused by the military incursion, President Duran-Ballen did not echo the position expressed by the Congress president and reiterated his decision to continue with dialogue.

"I have talked with President Fujimori, and the foreign ministers have had several meetings," he said.

"According to the Constitution, the Executive Branch must define foreign policy and direct international relations. Belletini's statement expresses his own feelings," Duran-Ballen added.

"We will maintain our dialogue with Peru to find honorable solutions to pending matters and ensure a frank and fruitful cooperation between our peoples," Duran-Ballen concluded.

President on B[illegible] OAS Candidacy Resignation

PA2608192193 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1200 GMT 26 Aug 93

[From "The Voz Andes Newscast"]

[Text] The National Government has expressed regret about Rodrigo Borja's resignation from the OAS secretary general candidacy but said that it was an excuse to hide the failure of his attempts to be elected. President Duran-Ballen said he was not surprised with Borja's angry and inappropriate reactions, as his candidacy had received little support at international forums.

[Begin Duran-Ballen recording] We alerted Dr. Borja to the fact that the current international climate was adverse to a candidacy that was not from Central America or the Caribbean. We wanted to avoid this outcome. Borja, through several of his fellow party members, insisted in presenting to the country, however, another impression of his possibilities to be elected. Confronted with this, we accepted the national trend, interpreting the general consensus. [end recording]

This is how the government has defended its position regarding the former president's resignation from the candidacy for OAS secretary general.

Ecuadoran Foreign Minister Diego Paredes stated at Congress last night that the government made every effort for Borja's candidacy to be successful. He recalled that the Foreign Ministry accepted Borja's candidacy in April 1992, although it had previously accepted the Costa Rican Foreign Minister's candidacy. He highlighted that Borja's candidacy had been presented to all the diplomatic mission chiefs accredited in the country and that all the Ecuadoran embassies had been instructed to support the national candidate. Paredes added that [Ambassador to the OAS] Dr. Blasco Penaherrera had disclosed Dr. Borja's candidacy to several countries and requested their support.

* President's Popularity Poll Shows 'Enormous Drop'

93SM0389A Quito HOY in Spanish 25 Jul 93 p 3A

[Article by Jaime Duran Barba, of the Informe Confidencial—Confidential Report—polling firm]

[Text] When we said in a previous article that we were going through a moment of optimism which helped the image of President Sixto Duran Ballen, we were presenting an objective analysis. We political consultants are not people who merely read poll numbers but are professionals who interpret the meaning behind the figures. On that occasion we said that the government should take advantage of the opportunity to communicate with the people, explain its program, and develop solid support for its actions.

The opportunity was a very good one, but it was totally wasted. On 5 June the president's popularity figure was a negative 42 percent in Quito and a negative 40 percent in Guayaquil. During the Juegos de la Copa America [America's Cup Games] on 19 June the negative figures dropped to 12 percent in Quito and 22 percent in Guayaquil. The poll taken on 10 July reflected a record for the president's unpopularity so far in this presidential term: 54 percent opposed him in Quito and 52 percent opposed him in Guayaquil.

The reasons for this enormous drop resulted, in large part, from a mismanagement of communications. Let us look at an example of this mismanagement. After the president traveled to the United States to meet with the most important financial authorities in the world and when a total cabinet crisis erupted, a national television network program was set up. All of us hoped that the president would say something about the new gasoline prices, the economic actions taken, and the cabinet crisis. What we saw was a president who continued to display his enthusiasm about the soccer championship match which had taken place several days before. The whole publicity campaign developed around the past soccer championship match was an enormous error. The results of the polls taken showed this clearly: if that campaign served any useful purpose, the situation involving the president's image would not have been so disastrous. The results of this handling of his image appear in the data and were frankly bad.

Different Ways of Measuring Opinion; Different Results

The question about the performance of the president can be asked in many ways, depending on what one wishes to analyze. In this poll we asked the question in two ways: in one case by asking how the respondent evaluated the performance of the president. We asked the respondent to answer with the terms "Very well," "Well," "Average," "Bad," and "Very Bad." We asked the respondents to make these choices because a few years ago we asked the same question in that way. We wanted to compare the results with the images of former Presidents Leon Febres Cordero and Rodrigo Borja.

For purposes of comparison we used two polls carried out by the Informe Confidencial polling organization and one poll by INFOC [National Public Opinion Institute]. In the case of the latter poll it was not carried out during the first year of the administration of former President Febres Cordero but rather during the second year, when he had already suffered a serious setback with the rebellion of General Vargas. From a general examination of the figures we can see that the popularity of the president now in

office is very similar to that of former President Borja, when we included the answer "average." In the case of former President Febres Cordero it must be recognized that he handled his image much more successfully than his advisers did. Even after the "Vargazo" [coup d'etat led by General Vargas] his standing in the polls was much better than that of the present administration.

In the data which we used to measure the popularity of President Duran Ballen over the past few months we omitted the choice of "average" for our respondents. For the last three years we have used the question in this way to force the person polled to make a positive or a negative evaluation. In the case of the present poll the negative numbers have gone up noticeably. The overall balance continues to be negative, but less seriously so than when the choice of "average" was permitted.

The fact that the people have behaved in this way means that many persons have a negative but relatively soft image of the present administration. They are not enemies of the government but are simply disappointed with it. The government can still recover, but there is not much time left to do so. If the government insists on making certain errors, it will wind up falling into the abyss.

Technical Details of the Poll

The Informe Confidencial polling organization took the poll in which these questions were asked on 10 July 1993. The newspaper HOY prepared the questions and contracted for the poll to be taken for its exclusive use. The poll was taken in the cities of Quito and Guayaquil, using representative samples of citizens over 18 years of age, made up of 400 persons in each city.

Most Recent Conclusions

Sixto Duran's Popularity (in net negative figures)

Date	Quito	Guayaquil
2 May 93	- 12	- 7
15 May 93	- 32	- 51
5 June 93	- 42	- 40
19 June 93	- 12	- 22
10 July 93	- 54	- 52

Paraguay

South Africa's De Klerk Arrives on State Visit

PY2608183593 Asuncion Cerro Cora Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Report by Andres Caballero from Silvio Petirossi International Airport]

[Excerpts] South African President Frederik de Klerk is about to begin his state visit to our country. He has just arrived at Silvio Petirossi International Airport in his official capacity and is being saluted with military honors by Paraguayan President Juan Carlos Wasmosy, Foreign Minister Diogenes Martinez, and other government officials. De Klerk arrived in a private plane and will stay in our country until 27 August. His agenda includes meetings with representatives from different groups in our country, which will contribute to strengthening diplomatic relations between our country and South Africa. With regards to this, it is worth mentioning that some days ago both countries' governments signed an agreement to eliminate visa requirements for entering the respective countries. This agreement will be instrumental in boosting tourism in both countries.

Following the singing of both countries' national anthem, De Klerk will be presented with the keys to the city by Asuncion Mayor Carlos Filizzola. [passage omitted]

At 1700 local time [2100 GMT], De Klerk will lay a wreath at the chapel of Our Lady of Asuncion and National Pantheon. At 1715, he will visit the Supreme Court; at 1800 he will attend a solemn session of Congress; at 1900 he will hold a working meeting with Wasmosy at Government House; at 1930 both presidents will issue a joint declaration; at 2000 a ceremony to award decorations will be held at Government House; [passage omitted] at 2030 Wasmosy will dine with De Klerk and his wife at Lopez Palace's Freedom Hall. Tomorrow De Klerk and his wife will attend a luncheon given by Wasmosy at the Yacht and Golf Club. De Klerk is scheduled to give a news conference at 1415 before leaving at 1600. [passage omitted]

Wasmosy Seeks Better Communication With Grassroots

PY2608190093 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 26 Aug 93 p 12

[Text] President Juan Carlos Wasmosy met yesterday afternoon with Colorado Party precinct presidents in an attempt to offset the influence that a high-ranking military officer is reportedly gaining at the grassroots level. The meeting was held at Government House. It was also attended by cabinet members. It seems that precinct presidents will become presidential "advisers" on social issues. The grassroots leaders want to recover their "old" power to resolve problems affecting their respective communities.

The meeting lasted about one hour and a half. Also in attendance were the entire cabinet. Psidential Spokesman Eduardo Venialgo said that President Wasmosy summoned the meeting to establish direct communications with the Colorado Party grassroots.

It has been learned, however, that the true motive for this meeting is the increasing of a high-ranking military officer among Colorado Party grassroots. The Colorado party leaders are reportedly receiving all sorts of promises, even the "option" of recovering the "power" they enjoyed in the past.

Through these contacts, the high-ranking military chief—who has already shown his aspirations to run for an elective office at the end of the current government term—is launching a kind of presidential campaign.

In view of this, Wasmosy summoned his cabinet and urged them to consider the concerns of Colorado Party grassroots. After the meeting was over, the Colorado Party grassroots expressed their great pleasure because they will again wield power and influence in several national issues, a move that brings back sad memories of past experiences.

Venialgo said: "The objective is to be in direct contact because they (the Colorado Party precincts presidents) supported a Colorado Party government platform that won the elections. This entails a great responsibility at the national level. These people are in constant contact in the political arena in their respective communities and should not overlooked."

Declining to specify whether this meeting was in response to the promise made by Colorado Party Chairman Blas N. Riquelme, who said that the precinct presidents would recover their influence in the government decisionmaking process, Venialgo said vaguely that the Colorado Party must be the basis of this government. Venialgo denied that the precinct presidents came in search of government posts. He said that the meeting was centered on the need to establish more fluent communications with the presidency.

Peru

Nation Authorized To Export to United States

PY2608164093 Lima EL PERUANO in Spanish 17 Aug 93 p A2

[Text] According to an explanation released by the Foreign Ministry on 16 August, the tariff benefits contemplated in the Andean Trade Preferences [System] can be used by our country as of 1 September, when the U.S. Government makes the system official.

The FEDERAL REGISTER [two preceding words in English], the U.S. Government's official bulletin, on 16 August contains the fact that Peru has been granted these benefits, thus the decision has been formalized and will go into effect within 15 days.

The benefits that have been granted and the start of operations by the Overseas Private Investment Corporation [title in English] (OPIC) in Peru are now important mechanisms for support and incentives for private investment, which now has a guarantee against risks and preferential access to the market it did not have before.

The Andean Trade Preference Law is part of a strategy that several governments have implemented to fight drug trafficking. It derives from the commitments made in Cartagena by the presidents of Peru, Bolivia, Colombia, and the United States. Ecuador joined this group later on.

This law allows Andean countries to introduce their products into the United States without having to pay tariffs. Textiles, clothes, oil and its derivatives, clocks and their parts, sugar, honey, and rum are exceptions.

In this respect, these benefits surpass those provided by the General Preferences, another support mechanism for developing countries, in that it does not establish quantitative limits regarding exports to the U.S. market and it includes a greater number of products.

CCD Approves Text of New Constitution

PA2608214493 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 26 Aug 93

[From the "Good Morning Peru" newscast]

[Text] The Democratic Constituent Congress [CCD] finished in the early morning hours approving the entire text of the new Constitution, which has over 200 articles and 18 temporary, complementary, and final provisions. The debate on the referendum mechanism begins today.

During the marathon session that lasted until the early morning hours, the legislators debated four bills on the preamble of the new Constitution, of which two articles were withdrawn. Constitutional Committee Chairman Carlos Torres y Torres Lara introduced the preamble proposed by the New Majority Change 90. The proposal emphasized the figures of our forefathers and heroes, but the opposition refused to approve it, so the progovernment bloc decided to withdraw it. Following an intense debate during which each lawmaker gave his views, CCD President Jaime Yoshiyama called for a vote on a bill submitted by Francisco Tudela. The bill was approved by 54 votes in favor and 10 against. This way the new text of the Constitution was completed, following eight months of debates.

[Begin Yoshiyama recording] The congressmen who are here and those who were not able to be here tonight have merely done what we had to. Beyond all our differences and concurrences, I am convinced we have done our job. This is particularly satisfactory, as it is the result of eight months of dedicated work by the members of this group. We will humbly submit the Constitution bill to the country. The result of the referendum will tell us if we have fully done our job and if we were able to interpret the wishes of the people of Peru.

We are facing the future now, and all of us want it to be a future of freedom, dignity, honor, wealth, and vigor. We want Peru to hold an important place in the Latin American community and the world. As we finish this historic work at 0300, I would like to salute you and thank you for all the support you, 79 congressmen, have provided, which has enabled us to draft a text that we are presenting now to the country with our best intentions.

[end recording] The gathered congressmen sang the national anthem. The new Constitution is to be submitted to a referendum on an as of yet undetermined date.

[Begin recording] [Tudela] This preamble does not express personal views. It is inspired in our republican tradition, all the Peruvian constitutions, except for the one of 1979. Before it, the Constitution had a similar introduction. The invocation to almighty God, in a Catholic country, is highly advisable. This was also contained in all our constitutions, except for the ones of 1826, which was promulgated by Bolivar, and of 1933.

[Pedro Garcia] It is an alternative, a manifesto to the people to be submitted to a referendum. We have tried to make the best and bring it before the Peruvian people in a referendum. We think modernization, development, and pacification must come to our country. This is one of the ways in which we who are from different areas of the country have tried to submit the Constitution to the people as it has never been done before.

[Torres] The congressmen who have worked efficiently, who are the vast majority who have been here from all the political parties, show this. Despite the exceptions that happen all the time, everybody has contributed with his or her viewpoints. I believe this is a wonderful experience to begin anew our effort to rebuild the country and try to understand each other.

[Reporter] When will the referendum be held?

[Torres] We expect it to be held in 60 days, as that is the time it requies to organize it. On 27 August we will discuss the bill. For the time being, we believe we must hold a referendum with four or five questions. We are open to change our minds or proposals. If we can reach a consensus with another stance, we will try to, because we want to have a referendum that is as democratic as possible to give full legitimacy to this Constitution. It is not enough to have been elected democratically, even under the supervision of the Peruvian Government as requested from the OAS, for the Constitution to be enacted as never before should not only be the result of this earlier consultation with the people but also reflect their opinion properly organized so that the world will know whether the people agree with the Constitution. If the result is positive, we will continue to work along these lines. If it is negative, we will review our stance and try to draw closer to the people on the opinions expressed by the people. [end recording] Invoking almighty God, obeying the people's mandate, and recalling the sacrifice of all the generations that have preceded us in this country, the CCD decided to approve the following Constitution. This is the text of the preamble approved today, 26 August, which concludes 11 months of debates on the new Constitution.

Venezuela

Bilateral Commission Meeting With Colombia Ends

PA2608221693 Caracas EL DIARIO DE CARACAS in Spanish 19 Aug 93 p 14

[Article by Maria Victoria Cristancho]

[Text] "Assuming the development plans of each border zone as a national strategy" (Cucuta-Urena-San Antonio; Arauca-El Amparo-Gusdualito; and Paraguachon-Maicao) was the recommendation made at the 28th meeting of the Colombia-Venezuela Bilateral Border Commission, which ended on the afternoon of 18 August in Maracaibo.

The document signed at the meeting of the Border Integration Commissions recommended planning border zones for Cucuta-Urena-San Antonio, as well as Arauca-Guasdualito and Paraguachon-Maicao. In this regard, the working table on border integration—presided over by Enrique Cuadros Corredor (Cucuta mayor), Barbara de Zarpoli (Tachira official), and Jose Ramon Vivas (San Antonio mayor)—decided to request that national resources be allocated to prepare the development plans.

Omar Baralt, Venezuelan Border Commission chairman, and his Colombian counterpart Enrique Vargas Ramirez closed the meeting without specifying—this information is not yet known—the date and city for the next meeting, given that this gathering represented the first and only held during the administrations of Cesar Gaviria and Ramon J. Velasquez, presidents of Colombia and Venezuela, respectively.

The theft of vehicles was one of the most important topics from the point of view of security; it was also decided to send the data bank on stolen vehicles in the country to the Disip [Directorate of Intelligence and Prevention Services] Liaison Office in Santa Fe de Bogota.

Colombia recommended and Venezuela accepted that the RAP [expansion unknown] be applied in the Departments of La Guajira and Arauca. Additionally, it was also requested that the PTJ [Judicial Technical Police] issue expeditiously the vehicle inspection certificates so as to have control over border crossings. Meanwhile, PTJ Director Orlando Jordan Petit announced the issuing of new inspection certificates and the sending of signatures and original seals of the persons and officials authorized for issuing such certificates to Colombia.

It was also decided to work jointly in the area of hydrographic basins.

Finance Minister on Special Power Law Decrees

PA2608150693 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1550 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] Finance Minister Carlos Rafael Silva has said there is no specific date for the publication of the first decrees based on the Special Powers Law promulgated by President Ramon J. Velasquez. He added that the main objective of Executive Council meetings will be to complete the final text of the decrees as soon as possible.

Silva said the delay in publishing the decrees for the already promulgated Special Powers Law is due to the fact that it is a very complex job and therefore cannot be done in a hurry.

He added that draft documents are well-advanced in certain subjects, specifically on associations with foreign investors in the oil field and reforms to the income tax law. He said that it will take longer to work in certain subjects, such as the banking law and related fields.

Regarding fiscal matters, Silva said, without wanting to sound negative, that he had to admit that the situation in that field is difficult.

[Begin Silva recording] Regarding fiscal matters, the situation is difficult. We are doing everything possible to implement reasonable measures. We believe the benefits of the Special Powers Law will not be seen with the current government but with future governments. We cannot expect to see spectacular results from laws that will only be enforced for three to four months this year. [end recording]

First Two Decrees Approved

PA2708023893 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 0017 GMT 27 Aug 93

[Report by Cecilia Pachano]

[Text] In a highly productive session, the Council of Ministers today approved the first two of the 15 decrees contemplated by the Special Powers Law.

The Council of Ministers, using the powers invested in them by the Special Powers Law, approved a decree transforming Linea Aeropostal Venezolana from an autonomous institution into a corporation. The Council of Ministers also approved a decree amending Articles 9 and 12 of the Income Tax Basic Law, which deals with the tax load on strategic associations of the national oil industry.

The Council of Ministers made other important decisions concerning the illiquidity statement for 16 billion bolivares, which considerably reduces the national budget. A German loan for the cleaning of the Bay of Pozuelos and a decree for the fluoridation and iodation of salt were also approved.

[Begin recording] [Finance Minister Carlos Rafael Silva] From now on all proposals to be considered by the president of the Republic through the Council of Ministers must first be considered by the economic cabinet. In addition to just dealing with facts, we will study the proposals based on the Special Powers Law.

[Rosana Ordonez, director of the Central Information Office] A program for the fluoridation [of water] and iodation of salt for human and animal use has virtually been approved to raise the Venezuelan people's standard of living. [end recording]

At the end of this Council of Ministers meeting, the finance minister said he will soon meet with leaders of the Chamber of Construction to establish mechanisms to issue treasury bonds and to prevent a halt in public projects.

Guyana

Jagan on Attempts 'To Stir Up Cold War Hysteria'

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[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Aug 26, CANA—Guyana President Dr. Cheddi Jagan, has complained of efforts to stir up Cold War hysteria because of his government's ideological stand.

"By harping on Marxism/Leninism, our detractors hope to stir Cold War hysteria and to create a destabilising climate," Jagan said in a statement released late Wednesday.

Last Saturday, the president had attacked the privately-owned STABROEK NEWS newspaper, which had carried reports on the party's ideological stance. Jagan said the paper was unpatriotic and out to destabilise his government—charges the daily rejected.

"I am deeply concerned that for no valid reasons, some elements seem determined to harass our new government on contrived ideological issues in an attempt, as I pointed out at my recent news conference, to muddy our waters abroad," the president said.

He added: "The PPP (People's Progressive Party), to which I belong, is historically a party of the working people and the poor, guided by the principles of Marxism/Leninism and with the aim of building a democratic and humane socialist (society) with a multiparty parliamentary system."

Dr. Jagan, 75, said the PPP has not foisted its ideology on the PPP/Civic government, nor does it intend to do so.

Said the president: "Marxism/Leninism, which a section of the local press has elevated to an issue, came up at our internal party county conferences at which delegates freely discussed the situation after the collapse of the socialist world, the crisis in industrialised Western societies, and the challenges facing developing countries."

The American-trained dentist said he made it clear then that the construction of socialism, as far as the PPP/ Civic is concerned, is a nonissue and an irrelevance.

"....Our new government intends to forge the closest possible relations with the governments and peoples of the United States, Canada, and Britain, who were instrumental in returning Guyana to the folds of democratic nations and we are determined to promote healthy all-round relations with them on the basis of genuine interdependence," he said.

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